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Hillary in a landslide
Senator-elect named 'Person of the Year' by gay Web site.

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Raving anime
'Piki & Poco: Adventures in Starland' on the web.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Dorrwin Jones dies at 66

by Terry Beswick

Dorrwin Buck Jones, a leader of the early gay rights movement in the United States and a passionate civil rights and social activist, died of heart failure Friday, December 29 in San Francisco. He was 66.

Before emigrating west over four decades ago to San Francisco, where he helped to found Meals on Wheels and a number of other progressive and charitable organizations, Jones was president of the New York chapter of the Mattachine Society, the first gay rights group in the country. He also was an early member of the Society for Individual Rights.

"[Jones] was utterly, utterly comfortable as a gay man in every aspect of life," said Sister Ruth Hall of Family Link, a guest house for family members and friends of people with AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. Jones served as the group's executive director from 1990 until his retirement in 1999.

"Some people say that if they could come back and not be gay, they would," said Sister Ruth, noting that Jones had come out in high school in Michigan. "Not Dorrwin."

A graduate of Michigan's Albion College, he also attended the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design in New York, where he worked as an interior designer while advancing the cause of gay rights in the years long before Stonewall.

Jones became a leading advocate for the elderly and disenfranchised in San Francisco, and a gerontologist by trade. In 1964 he was founding executive director of the San Francisco Foundation for Aged Colored Persons (known today as the Sanderson Foundation).

In 1970, he became founding executive director of San Francisco's Meals on Wheels program, a position

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Curtain call

by Cynthia Laird

Leslie Katz bids farewell to Board of Supervisors

The briefing papers, resource materials, computers, photographs, and awards have yet to be packed in her second floor office at City Hall, but last week outgoing Supervisor Leslie Katz reflected on her tenure as a public official. Katz – the board's only lesbian member – steps down this week after representing the city since 1996. Her last board meeting was Tuesday, January 2; the new members of the Board of Supervisors are to be sworn in this Monday, January 8.

"It's been a tremendous honor to serve," Katz said in an hourlong interview with the

Bay Area Reporter Friday, December 29.

In July 2000, Katz tearfully announced she was not seeking re-election because she could not afford to move from District 9 – where she heavily favored incumbent Tom Ammiano resides – to District 6, where there was no incumbent running in the city's new district elections. In making that decision, Katz called attention to the high cost of living and the tight housing market that were a byproduct of the city's red-hot economy, which was in part fueled by the city's development policies.

Now, as she prepares to leave office, Katz said she looks forward to entering private life,

though she will miss public service immensely. "I'm committed to public service," she said, adding that she hopes to get involved with some of the nonprofit organizations she's worked with over the years.

Katz's public service stretches back several years. Prior to being appointed to the Board of Supervisors by Mayor Willie Brown in June 1996, she had been an elected member and president of the Community College Board. After being appointed a supervisor, Katz went on to win election outright in November 1996.

Changing the world

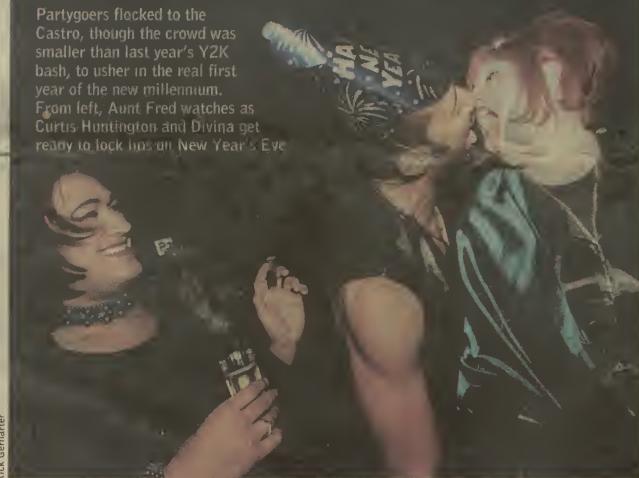
The single piece of legislation Katz is most proud of is the landmark equal benefits ordinance that she co-sponsored in 1996, along with Supervisor Tom Ammiano and then-Supervisor Susan Leal. The ordinance withstood court challenges by United Airlines and some companies owned by people with right-wing views and today stands as a model law that other cities are implementing. The ordinance requires companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employees' spouses. Today, hundreds of companies offer domestic partner benefits to hundreds of thousands of workers.

"The ripple effect has been felt well beyond San Francisco," Katz said. "I worked with the business community to get them to endorse it, and the business community here, including the Chamber of Commerce, bought into it. There used to be only 13 or 14 insurance companies that offered domestic

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The Castro rings in 2001!

Partygoers flocked to the Castro, though the crowd was smaller than last year's Y2K bash, to usher in the real first year of the new millennium. From left, Aunt Fred watches as Curtis Huntington and Divina get ready to lock lips on New Year's Eve



Last call soon for Santa Rosa gay bar

by Ed Walsh

After more than 27 years in business, Santa Rosa's only gay bar, the Santa Rosa Inn, is in escrow and could be shut down as early as late February or March.

"This is the last of the Mohicans," said bartender Frank DeSouza on the gap the bar filled for gay North Bay residents. "We are the only thing between San Francisco and Guerneville."

Santa Rosa Inn's owner, Charles Odon, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was reluctant to talk about the pending sale because it wasn't final and he was concerned he could lose business from people who might assume he had closed already. Odon added that the sale could be delayed because the company that bought the building was facing delays in getting the proper permits to operate. Odon said the new owners plan to turn the property into a retail boat business.

The Santa Rosa Inn is known for its welcoming small-town atmosphere and is a ran-

ity among Bay Area gay bars because of its equal mix of lesbians and gay men. Odon said in the past year, gay women have slightly outnumbered men, a reversal of how it was when he bought the bar 15 years ago.

"There's a large gay population up here but they don't patronize the bars much," said Odon. "They have their own private functions.

"And the drinking laws may have a lot to do with it. You almost have to drive to get here."

Odon added that several other bars have started up and failed in both Marin County and in Santa Rosa.

Odon said he planned to make a formal announcement about the bar's fate when he knows something definite. He also plans to have a closing party.

The bar's name is somewhat of a misnomer. It includes no lodging. Although "inn" is a little-used synonym for a tavern, Odon suspects the bar's original owners named it the Santa Rosa Inn because they may have planned to eventually add a hotel on the property. ▶

Katz hosts party tonight

Outgoing San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz invites interested people to attend her thank you party tonight (Thursday, January 4) from 6 to 10 p.m. at A. Sabella's Restaurant, 2766 Taylor Street at Jefferson, at Fisherman's Wharf.

"I have had the honor and privilege of serving as a supervisor and now, I'd like the chance to acknowledge and thank you for all of the support you've provided me over the years," Katz stated.

Katz said the party is being held to celebrate what she, her supporters, and others have accomplished. She said that Antone Sabella has generously donated hors d'oeuvres and there will be a no-host bar. A short program is scheduled for around 7 p.m.

While the party is free, several nonprofit organizations that Katz supports will be represented at the event and they would be happy to receive donations. ▶

– Cynthia Laird

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Leather and drag delight



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Flanked by Ms. Snatch, left, and Donna Sachet, right, Mr. North Coast Leather 2001, T. Jay Cain, beams at the success of his "A Taste of the River" benefit for the Sonoma County AIDS Emergency Fund last Thursday, December 28 at Club FAB in Guerneville. It was "glitterati" night at the Russian River, with a big turnout for the fundraiser, which featured performances by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Moni Starr, Ursula Cain, and stand-up comic Shann Carr.

School board member comes 'out' as Green

by Cynthia Laird

He hasn't yet become a member of the San Francisco Board of Education and already Mark Sanchez is making news. The openly gay teacher and school board member-elect held a news conference Thursday, December 28 to announce that he has switched his political party affiliation from Democrat to Green.

"I'm really happy to be Green," Sanchez said. "I think I've always been Green and I think it's great to come out of the closet in that way."

Sanchez, who spent a mere \$6,000 in his campaign to win the school board seat November 7, will be sworn in at a ceremony this Friday, January 4 at the Tenderloin Elementary School. With the departure of openly lesbian board member Juanita Owens, who did not seek re-election in order to run unsuccessfully for city supervisor, Sanchez will be the only openly gay person on the panel.

Ross Mirkarimi, spokesman for the California Green Party,



Mark Sanchez

said Sanchez's decision to switch is part of what the party's goal is, particularly at the local level. "While the Green Party has received notoriety nationally and at the state level, our efforts are really carried out at the local level," Mirkarimi said.

He added that the November elections saw three Greens elected

as mayors in California cities, including Sebastopol, Santa Cruz, and Santa Monica. Additionally, in San Francisco, Matt Gonzalez, who switched from Democrat to Green just after the general election, easily defeated Owens in the District 5 supervisor race. Gonzalez, who joined Sanchez Thursday, will be sworn in this Monday, January 8 at City Hall.

"We were extremely elated when Matt Gonzalez switched, as it sent a significant salvo to the other political parties," Mirkarimi added. "We're doubly excited with Mark Sanchez, who ran an amazing grassroots campaign."

For his part, Sanchez, who noted he grew up in Santa Monica and went to college at the University of California, Santa Cruz, said the Green Party really depends on voices from the community. He said that's how he will serve on the school board, and referred to recent news accounts detailing various fiscal problems in the San Francisco Unified School District, including rampant overtime charges and other financial

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Green gets ready for Board of Supervisors

by Katie Szymanski

You can forget tolerance when it comes to this heterosexual politician. For Matt Gonzalez, the newly elected supervisor for District 5, LGBT issues are a natural part of his fabric, not just a fancy phrase to claim inclusiveness.

Gonzalez, 35, is a Mexican American who grew up in conservative Texas, and knows firsthand what discrimination looks like. But the 10-year resident of San Francisco prefers to approach matters beyond his own identity politics.

"I like to take people at the

most intelligent level I can," he explained over fish and chips at a South of Market cafe, a short walk from his current job as deputy public defender in the Hall of Justice. A lefty to the core, he attributes much of his success to the LGBT people who have taken key positions in his campaigns.

"The first community that really embraced my candidacy for district attorney last year was the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club," said Gonzalez, who lost that race but made an impressive showing as a newcomer. "The LGBT community is powerful in this city not only because they've learned how to emerge, but be-

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Matt Gonzalez

Cynthia Laird

Friends mystified over fitness trainer's suicide

by Ed Walsh

Friends of well-known fitness trainer Bob Walton say they may never be able to answer why.

Walton, 40, committed suicide a week before Christmas. A memorial service is planned for next Saturday, January 13.

"He was an icon of San Francisco," said close friend Marc Hettinger. "Larger than life, large persona, beautifully put together, and a great mind."

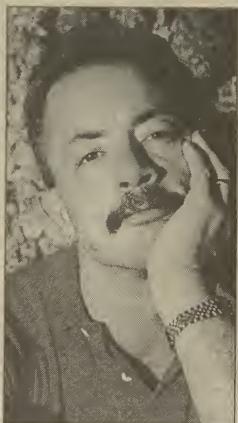
Hettinger found Walton dead on December 18. Friends last heard from him a day earlier. The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the determination of Walton's cause of death is pending toxicology reports.

Walton left a suicide note but it apparently shed little light on why he killed himself. Friends say they're mystified over what drove Walton to end his life.

"It's a mystery that will never be solved, frankly," said Hettinger. "A lot of pieces to a puzzle but we really don't have a clear picture."

Walton was an independent trainer but he worked most often at the Gold's Gym on Brannon Street. A makeshift memorial has been set up for him there that includes his picture alongside a candle and a Christmas card.

"He was a wonderful man," said Gwynn Villegas, an employ-



Fitness trainer Bob Walton

ee at Gold's on Market Street in the Castro where Walton also worked. "He had a great heart and was very dedicated to his work."

Keith King, an employee and trainer at Gold's on Brannon Street, echoed Villegas's sentiments. King told the *B.A.R.* that he was envious of the dedicated clientele that Walton earned.

"He was a wonderful trainer," added trainer Bill Wagner, who set up a tribute to Walton on his Pcsnabs.com referral and information Web site. "We were delighted to be able to refer people

to him."

Walton had been living with AIDS since the mid-1980s but was in good health, according to Hettinger. Although Walton was not currently in a relationship, Hettinger said he was not lacking in support.

"I can say without equivocation Bob did not suffer from lack of emotional support or resources," he said. "This is not an issue of someone who was isolated. Bob had a tremendous amount of support. That's one of the things that's most puzzling."

San Francisco Suicide Prevention's Executive Director Eve Meyer told the *B.A.R.* that sometimes even people with a lot of support find it difficult to ask for help.

"It's especially tragic because you say to yourself, why didn't he use all the supports he had," Meyer said. "Somehow you have to say that that was his choice. It's not that the supports were bad, it's just that there was something in the makeup of that person that would never have allowed him to use it."

Meyer said it's not unusual for some people to kill themselves without giving any hints to others.

"One out of five people give no warning signs at all," said Meyer. "And how they manage to do that is something I don't even understand. Suicide happens because

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Fire destroys Oakland needle exchange

by John Iversen

A suspected arson fire raged to three alarms and destroyed the headquarters of the Oakland needle exchange, Casa Segura, on New Year's Eve.

According to Oakland fire investigators the blaze began in Casa Segura's kitchen with an accelerant. The fire was spotted at 8:10 p.m. December 31 and brought under control 20 minutes later by 44 Oakland firefighters. No one was injured in the blaze which caused an estimated \$250,000 damage.

Undaunted, Casa Segura volunteers and staff, carried on the weekly Tuesday exchange January 2 under the light of a rented electric generator in the parking lot of the gutted building, in a secluded area two blocks from the Fruitvale BART station. The Berkeley Exchange brought its truck to serve as the wound clinic for the night. Raw vegetables, fruits, and bread took the place of the daily meal that is offered to needle exchange clients.

"We've operated on the streets before and will continue to do so if necessary. These are vital HIV prevention services and need to be in this community," explained Casa Segura Director Chris Catchpool at Tuesday's exchange.

What was missing this week were the other components of the program for which Casa Segura has been nationally recognized: a



A burned out window at Oakland needle exchange

level harassment of clients continues as the dead end street leading to Casa Segura was blocked by Oakland Police last Tuesday, December 26. Sites in West and East Oakland operate with minimal hindrance.

Last April, Casa Segura's move to a larger, cheaper, more secluded site infuriated Oakland City Council member Ignacio De La Fuente, whose district includes Fruitvale. His office openly campaigned to force Casa Segura to move out of the district. De la Fuente blamed the needle exchange for bringing untoward outside elements into the community. The needle exchangers charged De La Fuente was scapegoating them for the drug problem that already loomed large in the Fruitvale area.

In the meantime Casa Segura is hurting. According to Lenoir, "We are insured, but the settlement will take a long time. Insurance investigators are coming tomorrow to view the arson site. We are in need of money to pay for the electric generator and we need office equipment, computers, supplies, furniture, and kitchen equipment. Ironically our syringes were under lock and key at another location." ▶

If you can help, contact Casa Segura at P.O. Box 7522, Oakland, CA 94601 or e-mail: safehouse2@earthlink.net. The phones are not reconnected yet.

St. Francis observes independence

by Terry Beswick

On January 1, 1996, five years after being suspended for ordaining two lesbians and a gay man as pastors, two San Francisco congregations – St. Francis Lutheran Church and the First United Lutheran Church – were permanently expelled from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

Rather than mourn their expulsion from the national church, St. Francis Lutheran decided to observe the fifth anniversary of their independence on New Year's Eve with a special 11 a.m. service featuring a sermon from Anita Hill of St. Paul, Minnesota (no relation to the Anita Hill who testified against Clarence Thomas during his confirmation hearings for the Supreme Court).

Hill is a lesbian who will be ordained in St. Paul this year in a ceremony that recalls the unau-

thorized ordinations of Jeff Johnson, Ruth Frost, and Phyllis Zillhart, the gay man and lesbian couple ordained in San Francisco on January 20, 1990.

Frost and Zillhart now serve on the staff at St. Francis, while John-

son, who served until recently as pastor of First United, became pastor of University Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley.

"Our journey to this day began more than 18 years ago when our

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'Stop Spiritual Violence' protest Friday in the Castro

by Terry Beswick

While a civil disobedience protest at the Vatican organized by gay Catholic group Dignity/USA and interfaith gay rights group Soulforce has been banned by Italian police, openly gay and lesbian protesters instead plan to seek the blessing of the church in Rome on January 6. Meanwhile allies will stage candlelight vigils in San Francisco and eight other U.S. cities this Friday, January 5.

Demanding that Pope John Paul II and other officials of the Roman Catholic Church "end their homophobia and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people," two local gay church groups and supporters will march this Friday from the Castro to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese Chancery on Church Street in San Francisco. Organized by Dignity/San Francisco and the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, the candlelight march is set to begin at Castro and Market streets at 6 p.m.

Accounting for time zone dif-

ferences, the protest here will conclude hours before the event in Rome.

January 5, 2001 is the eve of the close of the Roman Catholic Church's "Year of the Jubilee" and the eve of the "Feast of the Epiphany."

The American delegation plans to arrive in Rome bearing gifts for orphans, for people living in an AIDS hospice, and for occupants of a home for battered women. Each day from January 3-5 at noon, they will walk up the Via Della Conciliazione to St. Peter's Square, carrying the gifts while wearing shirts that read, "God's Gay Children Bring Gifts. Bless Them."

Organizers say they will stop at a police barrier separating Rome from the Vatican City-state. The delegation will wait for a priest to bless their gifts before a large Nativity scene built on St. Peter's Square. "Blessed or not blessed," say delegates, "the gifts will be delivered to the orphanage, the hospice, or the home for battered women."

On January 6, members of Soulforce, Dignity/USA, and their

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Anita Hill

COMMUNITY NEWS

Unwanted gifts can help people with AIDS

by Katie Szymanski

Don't be embarrassed — we all get them. The candles your sister remembered you collected 12 years ago. The "365 jokes" calendar that implies your sense of humor is tacky. The sweater that says your aunt thinks you need to cover your butt.

Where do all the unwanted holiday gifts without return receipts go? Most likely to the basement or bottom of the closet, if not directly to the trash can. But this year, Under One Roof — the store that donates 100 percent of its profits to AIDS organizations — is asking the public to hold onto those presents, as painful as it may be.

Introducing "Aunt Sissy's Holiday Gift Exchange," initiated just in time for that post-season cleaning. Put those dust collectors aside and bring them on up to the Castro's only full-time charitable retail shop and they will be sold at the store's big sidewalk sale in February.

"It's a fun and easy community project," said Leslie Ewing, merchandise manager for Under One Roof.

Because the shop must keep overhead low in order to ensure that more money can go to organizations in need, it has always relied heavily on donations from various vendors. Yet recognizing that this time of year always

means a lot of new merchandise is going unused, the store decided to invite its customers to participate in the process. Hence, Aunt Sissy was born, with arms outstretched.

The only requirement to unload your gifts on this grateful new relative is that they be new and unused. From there, the process is simple: bring them by, starting immediately. You not only get a donation slip for tax purposes, but also get the satisfaction of knowing that this is one recycling

effort that actually made a direct impact on your environment.

This week, Under One Roof expects to reach \$7 million in sales since opening 10 years ago, which means that many local AIDS organizations have benefitted enormously from the shop. But where does the money go, and what HIV services are actually offered to the community? A new program will be launched this month to answer these questions and educate people about available resources; with a se-

ries of "informational events," agencies will perform outreach at the store on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Kicking off these events will be an exhibit from the Parachute Fund, scheduled for January 27 from 1 to 4 p.m.

It is apparent that the simple act of shopping is about to become a lot more educational. In the meantime, gather whatever you didn't fully appreciate this season, and carry them over to 549 Castro Street. Aunt Sissy is waiting. ▼

Law school conference tackles LGBT issues

by Katie Szymanski

There's still time to attend many of the programs offered by the American Association of Law Schools annual meeting, which began Wednesday, January 3 in San Francisco. Anyone interested in how law is practiced with regard to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders may want to check out what is offered.

"Pursuing Equal Justice: Law Schools and the Provision of Legal Services," is the theme of this year's AALS meeting. The organization, founded in 1900, is a non-profit association of 162 law schools that aims for "the improvement of the legal profession through legal education." It serves

as the learned society for law teachers and is legal education's principal representative to the federal government and to other national higher education organizations and societies.

The annual meeting goes through Saturday, January 6 and takes place at the San Francisco Hilton, 333 O'Farrell Street. Several topics will address LGBT people, according to organizers, and these presentations will explore the unique legal issues faced by these communities.

On Friday, January 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the conference will host "Aging With Diversity," a panelist conversation that explores adequate income, quality health, and long-term care for older Asian immigrants, LGBT

elders, and African American seniors. Also on January 5 is a discussion entitled, "Respecting All Families: Responding to All Persecutions: GLBT Persons and Immigrants and Refugee Laws."

Even if the word, "gay," isn't specifically in a workshop's title, look for many other conversations of interest, such as "Defamation and Privacy" on Thursday, January 4; "Healthcare Law" and "Employee Benefits" both on January 5; and "Minority Communities" and "Art and Internet Law" on January 6.

Admission per workshop varies, with preferred rates given to law faculty of member schools. For more information, visit www.aals.org and follow the "Annual Meeting" link, or call (415) 923-7500. ▼

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So long, Supervisor Katz

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, who leaves the board this week after more than four years of service, did not sit idly by during her productive tenure. Rather, she took on the fight for equal rights and stood up to the religious right countless times, never backing down from calling attention to the hateful beliefs of Christian conservatives and others, including the Catholic Church and the Salvation Army. Katz leaves the board as a victim of district elections; had she not been forced to move into another district in order to avoid running against her colleague Tom Ammiano, she would have sought re-election. As it is, her departure leaves the incoming board woefully short of women (there is one, District 10's Sophie Maxwell) and without an open lesbian for the first time in a decade.

As the city's only lesbian supervisor for the past few years (her former colleague Susan Leal became treasurer in 1998), Katz was proactive on issues affecting lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women — she held the first health summit directed at this community last year — as well as a host of issues that benefited gays, queer youth, and the city as a whole.

Katz told us that her work on the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance was her most important legislative accomplishment; and who can forget the battles the city fought with United Airlines and other firms getting them to comply with the law? The ordinance was amended several times and survived court challenges; today it stands as a model for other jurisdictions, a couple of which are in the process of implementing or passing similar laws.

A couple of years ago when the homophobic Salvation Army was wrestling with complying with the equal benefits ordinance, Katz said she got a call from "the man himself" — President Clinton. Apparently he had heard from the Salvation Army and asked Katz what was going on with the Salvation Army's compliance with the new law. At that time, the Salvation Army held city contracts for senior meals programs. Katz said that the organization was offered the same compromise that had been agreed upon with the Catholic Church, which allowed benefits to be offered to any family member. The president was satisfied with that response. The Salvation Army was left to work out a rea-

sonable solution, and of course decided to give up the contracts rather than extend benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offered the benefits to employees' spouses as the law required.

But Katz also told us that her public service was rewarding for the many things that got done but didn't necessarily make headlines: getting stop signs installed at problem intersections, for example, or using the power of being a city supervisor to get a woman some time off from work so that she could care for her critically ill son. She also noted that she is proud of having inspired people to get involved in public service through their work on various commissions.

There are also areas in which much more needs to be done, particularly homeless and housing issues. Katz pointed out the large number of working poor in San Francisco — those people who have jobs but don't earn enough to afford housing in the city's tight market.

Of course, those future projects will be left to the new board members who will be sworn in this Monday.

Thank you Supervisor Katz for your many contributions to the city.

On a sad note, the year 2000 ended with the deaths of four heroes in the community: gay rights pioneers Hal Call and Dorrwin Buck Jones; local activist Rick Pacurari; and gay rights attorney Paul Freud Wotman. Each contributed significantly to the betterment of gays and citizens as a whole through their work. Whether it be defending the right to send gay magazines through the mail (Call), defending the employment rights of gays in the workplace (Wotman), improving lives for people with AIDS by providing a place to live and for seniors by starting Meals on Wheels (Jones), or fighting for progressive and AIDS causes (Pacurari), each of these men showed us that positive change can happen to benefit us all. They will be sorely missed. ▼

Editorial

DADT: A disgraceful policy

by Patricia and Wally Kuttles

This fight is personal.

Over a year ago, our son Barry was attacked and killed — viciously beaten with a baseball bat — by fellow soldiers in the United States Army. Their reason? They thought Barry was gay, and so they beat him while he was asleep. We are appalled that our military lets cowards like that serve in its ranks, but discharges brave lesbians, gays, and bisexuals who wish to serve their country. The Pentagon needs to rethink its priorities.

It is time for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" to end.

This policy is a lie. It forces service members to lie to their friends about who they are under penalty of expulsion. This policy is also an excuse. It is an excuse to abuse and harass men and women who protect our country.

Our son Barry was a good soldier who was proud to serve his country. Even among the very best of the 101st Airborne, Barry was considered an exceptional soldier. Whatever his sexual orientation, it did not diminish his capability as a gunner. Bigotry and intolerance at Fort Campbell, Kentucky did. Our son was killed on American soil by an American soldier. That is disgraceful.

We stand proudly alongside the many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans who have served our country honorably. Solidarity is more important than ever. Our nation's military is in fragments, torn apart by federally sanctioned discrimination.

The Department of Defense, in its own study, found that 80 percent of service members surveyed had seen or witnessed some form of harassment during the past year. We should all, as American citizens, be concerned.

The time has come for accountability in the nation's armed forces. A commander's job is to take care of his or her soldiers. All soldiers. A commander who does not hold soldiers responsible for their actions is simply not doing his or her job. The Pentagon must learn to play by its own rules. "Do what I say, not what I do" doesn't work in the military. Commanders must set an example for their soldiers to follow.

There is hope. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is working hard to improve the lives of our men and women in uniform, and is a leader in the fight to overturn this policy. Last year, they obtained a 13-point plan to curb harassment in the ranks, and have successfully obtained, through an executive order by President Clinton, limited psychotherapist privileges for service members and recognition of military hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

SLDN also led the fight to reveal what really happened at Fort Campbell. When the Army told us Barry's death was the result of a "physical altercation" in the barracks, SLDN came to Kentucky, did its own investigation, and brought the facts surrounding his murder to light. Again and again, SLDN stands as a source of light for military mem-

bers hurt by DADT. Without them, we may have never known the truth.

Just recently, we received Barry's belongings from the Army — a year after his death.

Barry's items were thrown into a cardboard box. A medal he worked so hard to earn was sticking out of the side; it could have easily slipped out while being handled by the post office. The Army did about as good a job caring for his things as it did caring for his life.

Among the things we found in that box was a card from SLDN that lists a service members' rights under the policy. Say nothing. Sign nothing. Get legal help. It was probably the most valuable thing Barry could have had. We just wish he would have called that number.

As a soldier, Barry had few people to turn to for protection. As parents, we thank you for caring, and ask you to help those who are targets of military intolerance. Write to your elected officials, call the Pentagon, and let them know: It is time for this policy to go. Our military must become whole. ▼

Guest Opinion

Pat and Wally Kuttles are residents of Kansas City, Missouri. Service members who are being investigated or harassed because of their perceived sexual orientation, or are considering coming out to their command, should call SLDN for free, confidential legal counseling at (202) 328-FAIR. For more information, visit SLDN on the Web at www.sldn.org.

LETTERS

Will mayor resign in 2001?

The December 2000 runoff for district supervisors was an indication of how low Willie Brown's popularity has plummeted. With no district supervisors in his pocket, Brown will become a true lame duck mayor who will fail to pass any legislation to begin to solve homelessness, affordable housing, public transit, etc.

I predict the Mayor Brown will resign from office some time in 2001.

The Committee to Recall Willie Brown will resubmit an updated recall petition in January and begin gathering voter signatures over a five-month period to qualify the recall for the November general election along with the city attorney, treasurer, and numerous ballot measures. The recall effort, whether it succeeds or fails, will keep pressure on the mayor to do his job or be fired by the voters.

With a Republican president and John Ashcroft as attorney general, the FBI and the Justice Department may step up their investigations of corruption in San Francisco government and Brown may make a final backroom deal to step down to avoid prosecution. I can see him saving face by saying that he will step down to take a less stressful, higher paying job that better utilizes his fundraising and deal-making skills.

The person who the new Board of Supervisors elects as its next president on January 8 will become mayor if Brown resigns as I predict. Every concerned San Franciscan should call or write their district supervisor today and ask them to vote for the supervisor they believe is most qualified to work with the board and govern our diverse city as mayor.

For more information on the recall or contact information for all supervisors visit our Web site: www.RecallBrown.com or call 661-3600.

Jim Reid
San Francisco

Supports 'marriage' tax

I read with interest Paula Martinac's column "After Gore, who leads Democrats in '04?" in the December 21 *Bay Area Reporter* and could not agree with her more. Yet when she mentions [Senator Paul] Wellstone and his support of the Defense of Marriage Act, it brings up one of my pet arguments regarding the "marriage penalty" tax and it surprises me that I have never heard anyone present this opinion.

I am in full support of the "marriage penalty" tax and think that it should continue because, in essence, it is not a penalty but a privilege tax. If in fact marriage were a right shared equally by all citizens, then a tax on that equal right could justifiably be called a penalty. However, in view of the fact that marriage is not an equally shared right, but actually a privilege bestowed upon a select portion of the populace and denied to others, I feel it only just and appropriate that this special privilege should be taxed accordingly, vis-a-vis a luxury tax.

Lance Edwards
San Francisco

Rest in peace, Hal

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Hal Call (*Bay Area Reporter*, December 21 issue). I met him in the mid-1960s, after I had left the Army and was trying to find a community in San Francisco.

We were close for a time, but I got into the hippie and radical political movement, and Hal was too conservative for that.

Still, I value the time we knew one another and miss him now. I went on to become the "Acme Beer Man," the model for the first attempt by a "normal" company to court the gay/bi community, in 1975. By that time, I hadn't seen Hal in several years. (I wrote a column for *B.A.R.* in the late 1970s called "Body Talk.")

Hal was a courageous man. He was open about his sexuality and philosophy at a time when that was rare. He was a pioneer.

People such as he are not remembered by those who think gay liberation started with Christopher Street, but his value to the opening of minds and hearts was immense.

Let me add my voice to those of Bob Damron and Jose Sarria, and the others who knew him and remember the Mattachine Society, in giving a salutation to a life well lived.

Season's greetings, Hal, wherever your spirit is.

Steve Edwards
Berkeley, California

Flawed argument

The argument has been put forward and at various times printed in these pages that the struggle for civil rights for gays and lesbians should distance itself from the struggle for the rights of the transgendered. The argument used is that while (straight) folks might support our rights, they will balk at doing the right thing for the transgendered.

I am happy to point out that the argument seems to be unfounded. Civil rights protections for the

GLBT community, including the "T" are being enacted into law in various municipalities around the nation. The most recent examples are laws just passed in Atlanta, Georgia and Portland, Oregon.

The activists responsible for these laws should be very proud. They have done a great job. They understand that none of us are free until all of us are free.

Paul Barwick
San Francisco

Something's wrong with picture

Ten males now control the San Francisco Board of Supervisors – seven of those white. What the heck happened to the diversity of district elections?

Something is not right with this picture. It appears we have stepped back 30 years to the time when Diane Feinstein was one of two lone females on the board.

Erik Truman
San Francisco

The proliferation of personal parking

If there's one thing increasing faster than rents in San Francisco, it's the number of garages being built under Victorian homes. Hundreds of century-old front yard gardens are being ripped out in order to get a personal parking space in what is arguably the most walkable and transit-friendly city in North America.

If you own a house without a garage, there's little doubt you thought about putting one in. A garden is a small thing to sacrifice for the convenience of parking. If you've been shopping for a house, there aren't many that don't view a garage as a premium attraction that adds to the value of a property.

But walking down San Francisco's streets is becoming increasingly unpleasant and parking increasingly scarce because of the outbreak of under-house garage construction. Instead of walking along planted areas with good views of architecture not found in many places, pedestrians are confronted with blank concrete walls, imposing garage doors and lights that flick on as you pass.

Take Hancock Street for example. The two-block long street in the Castro up until recently was lined with attractive Victorian and Edwardian homes, nicely set back and padded against the streets with flowers and vines hanging over iron fences and stone walls. Undoubtedly the gardens added to the street's desirability and value.

Today many homeowners on the street are foregoing the walls, iron fence, and plantings in order to have a garage. While the garage may add to the value of a single house, it detracts from the aesthetics and value of the street as a whole.

The unfriendly blank walls and ugly rolling doors are replacing flowers and long stairways all over the city, obscuring the view of many painted ladies and changing the face of San Francisco's streets forever.

The personal parking pads do nothing to increase the amount of parking in the city. Because a garage needs a curb cut, every personal parking space under a house is one less on the street. While it may make parking available to city residents, it makes it more difficult for renters or visitors to other neighborhoods to find a spot.

Real estate agents also estimate a garage under a house adds at least \$100,000 to the value. The ability to knock over walls and dig into the basement to add a garage also has a value. Perhaps housing values would not be so high if garage construction permits weren't given so easily. Without parking many used to the convenience of suburbia would not be so anxious to move into the city.

While I respect property rights, I think the proliferation of personal garages detracts from the value of the street and the city as a whole. They are ugly. Cars parked illegally in front of them block the sidewalk for pedestrians and force the elderly and wheelchair-bound into street traffic. And they make finding a parking space more difficult for those without a garage, further increasing the demand for their construction.

Living in the city requires learning how to use public transit and to get around without a car. There are always times when you need a car, but an occasional cab or a rental will suffice for many. If you must have a car to use on a daily basis, perhaps Walnut Creek or Fremont is a better place to live. Let's consider stopping the endless construction of garages in the city and in the doing bring down housing costs, keep the aesthetics of the street, and bring San Francisco to the forefront of pedestrian and transit-first principles.

Eric Miller
San Francisco

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Who was Simon Nkoli?

by Rawley Grau

January 1986 (15 years ago this month): Openly gay anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli stands trial for treason in South Africa.

In 1996, the Republic of South Africa became the first nation in the world to enshrine civil rights protections for lesbians and gays as part of its constitution. Many had struggled to achieve this goal, but perhaps the most important groundwork was laid in a Pretoria prison cell a decade earlier when a young anti-apartheid activist accused of treason told his fellow detainees that he was gay.

Born November 26, 1957, near Johannesburg, Simon Tseko Nkoli became actively involved in the fight against apartheid while still a teenager. But South Africa's oppressive system of racial segregation had made its mark on him even earlier. His parents, a hotel chef and a saleswoman, were illegal squatters: blacks needed special permits to live in urban areas. One of Nkoli's strongest childhood memories was of his parents hiding in a wardrobe when the police came to check passes. He later compared this wardrobe to the "closet" he came out of as a gay man: "If you are black in South Africa, the inhuman laws of apartheid closet you. If you are gay in South Africa, the homophobic customs and laws of this society closet you. If you are black and gay in South Africa, well, then it really is all the same closet, the same wardrobe."

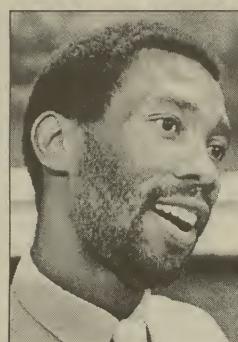
Nkoli came out of his closet to his parents when he was 19. His mother was horrified. She dragged her son to a series of *sangomas* — spiritual healers — who told her Simon was bewitched. Finally, he agreed to see a psychiatrist, who convinced his mother that her son was indeed gay and there was nothing she could do about it.

By age 24, Nkoli had become a regional secretary for the Congress of South African Students, an anti-apartheid organization. Pressure to bring a girlfriend to meetings made him feel he had to come out to his fellow activists. But when he did, they questioned whether he could remain in a leadership position and called a special general meeting. Homosexuality was considered to be un-African. But Nkoli vigorously stood his ground, and after a lengthy debate, the vote was 80 percent in his favor.

At the time, the only gay organization in the country was the Gay Association of South Africa, and Nkoli became one of its few

congregation established Wingspan, a ministry with and on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons," said Paul A. Tidemann, pastor of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in St. Paul, in announcing the forthcoming ordination of Hill.

"This ministry seeks ways to welcome GLBT people into the church and to encourage their full participation in the life of the congregation," Tidemann said. "Full participation is not possible as



dergoing momentous changes. F.W. de Klerk, who became South Africa's president in 1989, began dismantling apartheid: Nelson Mandela was released from prison and his outlawed African National Congress once again began functioning legally.

The nation's first all-races vote took place in 1994, and Mandela was elected president. When the country adopted a new constitution on May 8, 1996, it banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. ANC National Chairman Patrick "Terror" Lekota, who had been one of Nkoli's co-accused, was now one of the leading authors of the new constitution. "How could we say that men and women like Simon, who had put their shoulders to the wheel to end apartheid, how could we say that they should now be discriminated against?" he later explained.

In the mid-1990s, Nkoli founded the Township AIDS Project in Soweto to help combat the epidemic that continues to ravage South Africa. Around the same time, he announced that he, too, had AIDS. Nkoli finally succumbed to the disease on November 30, 1998 — on the eve of World AIDS Day. Tributes poured in from around the country and the world, honoring Nkoli as a leader who had helped forge a new and more equitable South Africa. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.planetout.com.

Suggested reading

Gevisser, Mark, 1998, "A Leading Light of Gay and AIDS Activism in SA," *Sunday Times* (Johannesburg), December 6. Published on Web site at www.suntimes.co.za.

Gevisser, Mark and Edwin Cameron, 1995, *Defiant Desire: Gay and Lesbian Lives in South Africa*. New York: Routledge. Includes Simon Nkoli, "Wardrobes: Coming Out as a Black Gay Activist in South Africa."

Nkoli, Simon and Mark Chestnut, 1997, "Out of Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook of Gay and Lesbian Politics. Edited by Mark Blasius and Shane Phelan. New York: Routledge. Originally published in *Outweek*, September 24, 1989.

long as the ELCA excludes calling and ordaining qualified gay and lesbian candidates in committed relationships."

Hill has a master's degree from United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities. She has served on many national and regional task forces dealing with church and society around GLBT issues including serving on the ELCA Task Force on Human Sexuality. Hill also served as staff for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in ministry around issues of persons with AIDS.

"We have taken this stand because of our firm belief that lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are

called by God, the same as anyone else, to serve as pastors, teachers, and other roles in the church. Since the ordinations of Ruth, Phyllis, and Jeff, we have been mighty blessed by their service and leadership. We continue to stand by them as our pastors," said St. Francis Lutheran officials in a statement.

Located at 152 Church Street, between Market and Duboce streets, St. Francis does not identify as a "gay church," but welcomes and includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in its worship and ministries, and has been active in the gay community. ▼

Senate should reject Ashcroft

by Wayne Friday

Now that George W. Bush has nearly completed naming his Cabinet selections, appointed retired General Colin Powell as his top African American, some women and minorities to mostly low-key Cabinet posts, and going back to the Gerald Ford years to find a secretary of defense, it is the appointment of former Missouri Senator John Ashcroft as attorney general that will cause the most confirmation problems.

The U.S. Senate very likely will ultimately give Bush his Justice Department choice, but it should reject this appointment. Ashcroft, appointed to one of Washington's most powerful positions, with certain influence on judicial appointments, civil rights, women's rights, immigration rules, and the enforcement of voting rights, is one of the most right-wing political extremists ever to have served in the Senate. Fiercely anti-abortion, anti-gay, and never known for civil rights, the former Missouri senator has opposed every important civil rights bill that he faced during his Senate career.

Not known as a champion of minorities, Ashcroft, in 1988, served on a federal commission to study the plight of minorities in this country but was one of only two of the 40 members (which included former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter as well as Coretta Scott King) who refused to sign the panel's final report. The report had concluded that the country was slipping in its efforts to achieve equality for blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans, and that many minorities were "afflicted by the ills of poverty and deprivation." Ashcroft said the report was too negative, calling it "overly broad and counterproductive."

In 1998, then-Senator Ashcroft led the fight to block federal judgeship for Missouri Supreme Court Justice Ronnie White, the first black on that state's high court, using as his reason that White was somehow "soft on criminals." More recently, Ashcroft has come under fire for accepting an honorary degree and giving the commencement speech at Bob Jones University, well known for opposing interracial marriages and dating and where school officials once referred to the pope as the antichrist.

A confirmed Clinton-hater who was one of the leaders in the Senate to impeach the president, Ashcroft rented his fund-raising list to Linda Tripp at the very time he was sitting in judgment of Clinton at the impeachment trial. Ashcroft is also proudly on record as having once hailed Confederate war heroes as being "patriots" and has a long public record of being very closely aligned with the religious right, having repeatedly introduced legislation to allow religious groups to receive federal funds.

Staunchly anti-gay, Ashcroft is at the far right of his party and that is precisely why the GOP con-

servatives pushed so hard for Bush to give him the powerful Justice Department position. As attorney general, Ashcroft would surely have wide influence on who Bush picks for Supreme Court vacancies. Ashcroft is proud of his far right leanings; he once boasted that he didn't want to be considered a "moderate" or "middle-of-the-roader," saying that "two things you find in the middle of the road are moderates and dead skunks."

With Ashcroft as attorney general, the Justice Department would likely immediately take a position against affirmative action, abortion rights, gay rights, and would certainly push hard for allowing more of a religious presence in government. Ashcroft's selection is widely seen as a payoff to the Republican far right and last week the appointment was widely praised by Gary Bauer and other religious conservatives.

Democrats in the Senate, hopefully with the help of a couple of Republican moderate members, must show that they are willing to block right-wing nominations like the one that Bush has made in the person of John Ashcroft. The Senate should block this appointment and California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer should be leading the effort to do so.

Politics and people

Another nomination that George W. Bush made last week that is causing some concerns – particularly among pro-choice groups – is that of Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson to serve as secretary of the vast Health and Human Services Department. Staunchly pro-life, the Thompson appointment drew criticism from NARAL and other abortion rights groups, but muted praise from some gay rights groups. A spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay advocacy organization, cautiously welcomed the Thompson appointment, calling the Wisconsin governor a "fair-minded moderate" and pointing out that he expanded Medicaid coverage in his state for people with HIV and signed a law giving gays and lesbians the right to visit their hospitalized partners. As a leader of the GOP platform committee, Thompson also worked to remove anti-gay language from the GOP national platform last year, though was unsuccessful in that effort.

And to those who would think that Bush's appointment of retired General Colin Powell, a prominent African American, to become the nation's top diplomat is a good thing, I could point out that the secretary of state-designate, while serving as Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Clinton, opposed Clinton's announced plans to end the ban on gays in the military during his 1992 campaign. Once Clinton was elected, Powell boasted that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that President Clinton eventually adopted was what he (Powell) had recommended from the begin-

ning.

What is happening to Al Gore, you ask? Well, he is reportedly busy considering big-buck offers from just about everywhere, getting ready to move his family into their own D.C. house, and continuing to wistfully watch his popular vote total grow.

And what about John McCain? Well, the vanquished Arizona senator, who some say is still putting on a fairly convincing face about helping Bush gain the presidency (say goodbye to 2004, John) promises to test the Bush presidency early in the new Senate session with his beloved campaign finance reform bill. McCain, foolishly, is saying he "expects" the Bush administration to support his campaign finance plan. It's uncertain how McCain is viewed in California. After losing the primary to Bush, he campaigned and raised money for GOP congressional candidates James Rogan and Jim Cuneen and, U.S. Senate nominee Tom Campbell, all of whom were beaten badly in November. McCain was also on the wrong sides of Proposition 34 and the school voucher initiative in the state.

President-elect Bush has named Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore to become the new chair of the Republican National Committee; outgoing chair Jim Nicholson is likely to be appointed the Bush secretary of the Army.

Meanwhile, attorney and big time Democratic party fundraiser Terry McAuliffe will become the new DNC chair, and I'm told Art Torres wants another term as chair of the California Democratic Party.

A belated congratulations to the S.F.-based consulting firm of Staton-Hughes for their pulling off the state's biggest upset in November when their candidate, Democrat Susan Davis, unseated longtime GOP Congressman Brian Bilbray in San Diego.

In New York, the final vote total where Senator-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton (sworn in this week, incidentally) trounced the once-favored Rick Lazio (R) is now near the 800,000 mark; think there isn't already "Hillary in 2004" talk?

Incidentally, with the new Congress being sworn in Wednesday, January 3, and with Al Gore still vice president until January 20, the Democratic Party actually controls that body until Richard Cheney becomes vice president on January 20.

Prior to 1992 no more than two women at a time had served in the U.S. Senate, but this week saw a record 13 females – 10 Democrats and three Republicans – take their Senate seats. Sixty-one women were sworn into the House of Representatives, up from 56 in the last Congress.

Prominent gay attorney Tom Horn, first appointed to the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein in 1980, and subsequently reappointed by Mayors Art Agnos, Frank Jordan, and Willie Brown, was recently elected president, for the seventh time, of that prestigious board.

Using an ancient Christian tradition, the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto plans to conduct what it calls the modern

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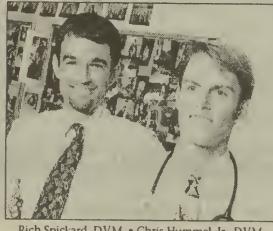
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Growing angrier by the day over the presidential election

by Paula Martinac

In most of the presidential elections since 1972, the year I became eligible to vote, my chosen candidate has gone down to defeat. After my initial disappointment, I've resigned myself to getting through the winner's term of office, albeit with a lot of grumbling. Last November 7, I was prepared to react to a George W. Bush win as I had to those of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush.

But instead, I find that I'm not at all reconciled to the outcome and that I'm growing angrier every day. Lesbians, gay men, and other concerned Americans have a duty to protest this election and try to change the country's pathetic excuse for an electoral system.

There are so many reasons to be angry. Most immediately, I'm angry because the U.S. Supreme Court placed Bush into power instead of letting him or Al Gore be elected. The five majority justices essentially said, "Gee, there's just not enough time now to count every vote," when it was the Bush team that ran out the clock and put up barriers to hand recounts at every single turn.

It's particularly outrageous that the court found for Bush on the basis of the equal protection clause, which was designed to protect blacks in the South from discrimination. The ruling is a slap in the face to all the blacks in Florida and elsewhere who assert that their voting rights in this election were violated.

I'm furious that Justice Clarence Thomas defended the court's ruling as not politically motivated and that conservative pundits and politicians are pointing fingers at the four dissenting justices for being partisan.

Consider, however, this bit of political foreplay: Before oral arguments were even heard in *Bush v. Gore*, ultraconservative Justice Antonin Scalia (one of Dubya's two favorites on the bench, by the way) made a broad public wink-wink that Bush would prevail in the high court. In addition, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor publicly expressed disappointment at an election night party when Florida was first called for Gore, because she wanted to retire under a Republican administration.

Similarly, Republicans have boldly painted Democrats as the only ones engaging in partisan warfare, when in fact some of the ugliest behavior came from the right. How about House Majority Whip Tom DeLay calling for a "holy war" if Gore prevailed in the

recounts? What about all the other Republican congressional leaders who vowed to boycott a Gore inauguration?

I'm angry, too, because this election made a mockery out of a passionate belief of mine about the power of voting. Voter registration drives and getting out the vote on election day have been among the most important political strategies that lesbians and gays, blacks, and many other voting blocs can put time and money into. But how can any community encourage its non-voters to make their voices heard if we can't be sure those votes will be counted?

It's infuriating that the country that leads the world in technology still doesn't have a dependable way to count everyone's vote and that the least reliable voting equipment is used in the poorest areas. Isn't it funny that the government can figure out easier ways for people to pay their taxes, like short forms and filing online? And every time I've made even the tiniest error on my tax forms, either the IRS or the state tax department has jumped at the chance to let me know about it. But the basis of democratic government, the popular vote, doesn't warrant the level of care that could make it more fair, accurate, and sensitive to "voter intent."

I'm angry that the Electoral College operates on a winner-take-all basis — a practice that evolved over time in most of the states and was not conceived by

the framers of the Constitution. In the South, African Americans turned out in record numbers to cast their ballots for Gore. But because Bush won a majority of votes, he captured all the electors of those states, thus stifling the voices of the millions who voted for Gore.

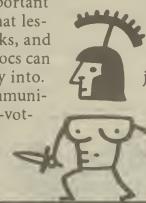
Finally, I'm probably the angriest because we're all being encouraged *not* to be angry.

Now that we have a president-elect, politicians and journalists are extolling "the peaceful transition of power" that occurs in this country without fail every four or eight years. Okay, I'll admit I'm glad we're not rioting in the streets. But I worry a lot about the silencing of dissent and about the media's portrayal of concerned activists like Jesse Jackson, who is calling for protests nationwide, as hysterical and divisive.

We have a duty to be angry about what happened in this election. Anger and protest are positive things that gave us the sit-ins and boycotts of the 1950s and the riots at the Stonewall Inn in 1969. Anger and protest can also give us electoral reform and with it assurance that the person sitting in the Oval Office actually won the right to be there. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNCcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

Lesbian Notions



Queer young professionals meet Friday in Berkeley

by Terry Beswick

If you're young and queer and in search of other young queers in the East Bay, there's a new group for you at the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley.

Queer & Young Professionals meets on the first Friday of each month, and will hold its second meeting this Friday, January 5 from 8-10 p.m. At QYP you can meet people like yourself who seek a safe, comfortable, and uninhibited environment for discussion of LGBT topics, which according to program director Amy Wooldridge, may include "coming out in the workplace, finding a

house, and even that most formidable of topics, what to do in the East Bay."

Whether you've been out to yourself and close friends for a while, or you've dated casually but have yet to find that long-term relationship, or you're simply new to the area and haven't yet found that elusive queer community, this could be the group for you to converse with others in a similar situation. QYP's only requirement is that you are an open-minded, professionally-identified, young individual interested in meeting others to discuss queer issues. Wooldridge said that all are welcome at the group, whether they work in the nonprofit, corporate, federal, or even graduate school sectors.

A \$5-10 donation is requested, though no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, the Pacific Center offers a wide range of support groups, rap sessions, and other services for LGBT people, especially those who live in the East Bay.

For directions or other information, call (510) 548-8283 or visit www.pacificcenter.org. ▼

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Away in a manger

by Jane Warner

Beck's Motor Lodge, 2222 Market Street, December 26, 7:45 p.m.: A man walked into the hotel the day after Christmas and told the clerk he wanted a room. When she turned to retrieve the guest book, the man slammed open the counter top and rushed her with a gun in his hand. The clerk tried to push the suspect but he was much larger and she could tell he had been drinking. Motioning with his gun, the armed robber screamed for her to get down on the floor. Fearing for her life, the clerk complied, and the gunman took \$192 from the till and ran out the door. The thief, described as a white male, 6 feet two inches tall, 280 pounds, between 30 and 40 years old, wearing a green flannel shirt, dark pants, and large work boots, was last seen running

eastbound on Market.

Strange man

100 block of Dolores, December 19, 6 p.m.: A man reported that while he was relaxing at home, his doorbell rang. Not hearing an answer over the intercom, the resident assumed it was one of his friends and buzzed the individual into the building. Looking over the staircase, he saw a strange man who looked up and stated, "You told me to come at 6." The resident told the man he must be mistaken, but liked what he saw, and invited him up anyway. Once inside, the man sat down and said, "Let's take care of the money." The resident refused to pay him and told the man he needed to leave, but the mystery date demanded \$200 for his trouble. After a slight verbal argument, the resident went into his bedroom and re-

turned with a loaded .25-caliber shotgun. The man immediately got up and ran out the door. About 15 minutes later the resident received several threatening phone calls, one of which said, "My boss is going to take care of you himself, so I'm not going to enjoy watching the expression on your face when you die."

The suspect is described as a white male, 30 years old, 5 feet 11 inches, 200 pounds, brown hair, with a beard and mustache, wearing blue jeans.

New Year's Eve in the Castro

Castro revelers brought in the new year with very few problems thanks to additional security provided by a \$5,000 donation from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. Thanks also goes to Supervisor Mark Leno, who was instrumental in securing the funding. The following is a list of

incidents that occurred during the neighborhood celebration:

December 31

9 p.m. Noise complaints of "bad Motown" coming from the steps of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center.

LYRIC was closed for the night and the Rondells moved on.

10 p.m. Chevron reported being bombarded with rolls of toilet paper, thrown off the roof of The Cafe. Suspects not found.

11:10 p.m. Moby Dick reported a group carrying a Christmas tree and throwing bottles. Group was stopped and admonished.

11:16 p.m. A woman "tossed her cookies" from a second story window of The Cafe, hitting several patrons waiting below. The woman was carried out and booted as she was put in a cab.

11:24 p.m. Paramedics responded to Daddy's for a man

who fell out of a window seat.

11:26 p.m. Found passed out in Chevron's flower bed, a man was taken to SF General to be treated for alcohol intoxication.

11:40 p.m. A report of a man celebrating with lit flares inside the Castro Theater parking lot. The man was admonished and his flaming batons extinguished.

January 1

12:04 a.m. A fire breather walking down Market Street was reportedly blowing flames at passing cars. Suspect disappeared.

1:25 a.m. A report of a fight at The Bar on Castro. One person was escorted out.

1:36 a.m. An off-duty police officer reported being pick-pocketed inside The Cafe. Taken was his badge and police identification. Suspect is unknown. ▀



Trainer suicide

◀ page 3

people are in tremendous pain, emotional and/or physical pain, and how they manage to hide that pain and hide the fact that it's becoming unbearable is something no one yet understands.

"It does happen. On the other hand, it's a reminder that we should keep ourselves attuned to the emotional pain that our friends may be experiencing and that we should not be afraid to ask them if that pain is getting too difficult to bear."

Meyer said asking the question "why?" after a suicide may be futile.

"Of course there's no way you can go back and fix it," she said. "There may be no answer to that question and even if there is an answer to that question the purpose of that answer is so that you can help the next person, not do beat yourself over the head."

"There are more suicides than homicides in the United States and in San Francisco and a large proportion of them occur in the gay community. The pressures of being isolated and of going through a childhood and adolescence in which you are isolated and being isolated from your family has a lot to do with it."

Although Walton apparently gave no warning signs that he was suicidal, Meyer said she hoped his death in some way would serve as a reminder to others to be alert to the common signs that someone

could be seriously contemplating suicide.

"The major warning sign is any talk of death or wanting to die," said Meyer. "Wanting to have this over with, wanting to go to sleep forever. Wanting to go away forever. That should immediately trigger asking the person 'Are you really thinking about killing yourself?' The worst thing that can happen is that the person will look at you like you're a little crazy and say 'No.'

"There are other signs that include making up a will and giving away belongings. Sometimes people who have decided to kill themselves wrap up their lives very neatly, put things together that have never been put together before. Or leave messages - 'Don't forget if I'm ever gone to always do this.' All of those should be signals that you should ask 'What's going on and is this about too much pain?'

Meyer added that San Francisco Suicide Prevention is equipped to help guide people to the right resources. She said that if someone is suicidal, it's imperative to get the person to make a contract to not act on an impulse without calling someone first.

Friends of Walton plan to place an obituary announcement in the B.A.R. next week when they decide the time and place of his January 13 memorial service. ▼

San Francisco Suicide Prevention can be reached at (415) 781-0500.

Sanchez

◀ page 2

problems. The school board has been marked in the past with the impression of back room deals, Sanchez added, and said he would fight that perception.

"The Green Party stands for being up front," he said.

Sanchez, 37, had taught fourth and fifth grade students for seven years, until last June, when he transferred to teach at Paul Revere Elementary School in Bernal Heights. He has also enrolled in the graduate education program at the University of California, Berkeley. His passion for teaching helped catalyze an organization he co-founded called Teachers4 Change. That group came to life in the fall of 1999 as an activist teacher group, dedicated to direct action for the purpose of raising public awareness about classroom

issues and school board policies. It was this kind of advocacy effort that lent grassroots momentum to the strong independent campaign that put Sanchez in the winner circle, and helped him realize that it was time to switch to Green.

"I'm a little disenchanted with the Democratic Party," Sanchez said. "It's not progressive enough and I agree with the values of the Green Party."

Gonzalez joked that he wasn't responsible for Sanchez's decision to switch parties, and pointed out that in San Francisco, there has only been one party, the Democrats. By winning his race for supervisor as a Green, Gonzalez said he thinks the city is ready for change. "I think the public is ready to have a little bit more honesty," he said.

Sanchez said that perhaps he should have switched before the election. "I was going to switch awhile ago," he said. ▼

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- Acting classes
- Women's Studies courses



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Course Title	CRN	Days	Times	Room No.
American Government	34585	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	203
Animal/Plant History	34399	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	1
Contemporary News Media	34633	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	12
Drawing (Basic)	35051	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	18
Drawing (Basic)	35051	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	18
Film Studies (Intro)	34762	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	201
French (Conv, Beginning)	34736	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	310
GLBT Communities of Color	34795	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	110
German (Continued Practical)	33632	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	107
History/Aesthetics of Photo	34735	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	236
Holistic Health Practice	30995	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	110
Italian (Elementary 1A)	34083	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	205
Japanese (Elementary 1A)	31013	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	310
Japanese (Elementary 1A)	34084	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	203
Lesbian Community Issues	34794	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	203
Lesbian/Gay American History	34580	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	205
Lesbian/Gay Culture & Society	30404	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	201
Life & Death in Society	34661	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	205
Mandarin (Conv, Beginning)	32443	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	308
Men's Health Issues	30598	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	307
Poetry for the People	32304	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	205
Public Relations Fundamentals	33400	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	236
Russian (Elementary 1B)	33186	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	107
Spanish (Conv, Beginning)	31147	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	304
Spanish (Elementary 1A)	34022	Sat	9:30-12:30 P.M.	302
US History Since 1900	30762	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	110
Western Art History	35029	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	236
Women and Film	34395	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	201

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Congress passes Internet filtering law

by Liz Highleyman

On December 15, days before its holiday recess, Congress passed a bill requiring schools and libraries to utilize Internet filtering software. The Children's Internet Protection Act, which was introduced by former presidential candidate Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) and Representative Chip Pickering (R-Mississippi), was unexpectedly attached to a large federal appropriations bill; President Clinton signed the legislation on December 21.

Under the terms of the law, public schools and libraries must install software to filter out Web sites that are harmful to children. Although the law aims to protect minors, it will also restrict what material adults can access. Library administrators will be allowed to disable filtering software only for "bona fide research or other lawful purpose." Schools and libraries that do not comply with the law risk losing federal funding for technology improvement.

The American Civil Liberties Union has vowed to challenge the new law in court, saying that it raises free speech concerns. According to ACLU lawyer Chris Hansen, "This is a mandated cen-

sorship system by the federal government ... [under the law] no adult anymore can read what they want at the library." Hansen continued, "This is the first time since the development of the local, free public library in the 19th century that the federal government has sought to require censorship in every single town and hamlet in America."

The ACLU was one of several plaintiffs that sued the federal government to prevent the enforcement of the Communications Decency Act, which would have prohibited sexually explicit content on the Internet. In June 1997, the CDA was overturned by the Supreme Court, which ruled that the law was overly broad. John Albaugh, a spokesman for Representative Ernest Istook (R-Oklahoma), one of the bill's proponents, believes that the new law will escape a similar fate. "We drafted it to make sure it was constitutional," he said. The new legislation includes an expedited legal review process, in which a challenge will be heard by a three-judge panel and then the Supreme Court, bypassing the usual appeals process.

The Family Research Council lauded the law's passage. According to FRC Director of Legal Studies Jan LaRue, "No longer will fed-

eral aid be used in public schools and libraries to expose kids to hard-core and child pornography. ... The government providing kids with access to bestiality and all of the other pornographic perversions available on the Internet does not constitute free speech. Rather, it is a gross violation of parental rights and common decency."

Various filtering programs exist, and companies that produce this software typically do not reveal which sites they filter. Such software has come under fire in recent years for blocking some content — such as certain gay and health sites — that are not pornographic, while letting some sexually explicit material slip through. Susan Getgood, a vice president of SurfControl — which owns Cyber-Patrol and SurfWatch, two of the most popular filtering programs — spoke out against the new law, stating "Things that mandate specific technologies probably aren't the best solution here ... I don't think it's necessary because schools are already doing what they need to do to protect their students." To protest the legislation, the nonprofit organization Peacefire released a program that it claims can disable "with the click of a button" all popular Windows-based "censorware." ▼

George Bush names Thompson to lead HHS

by Bob Roehr

Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson will be the next secretary of Health and Human Services. George W. Bush made the official announcement on December 29. The nomination generally drew praise from gays and lesbians, though some expressed concern that his strong pro-life views might restrict access to abortion.

Thompson has enforced the nation's first statewide gay rights law, passed in 1982, four years before he became governor, and he opposed anti-gay marriage legislation. As chair of the platform committee at the Republican National Convention last July, he led efforts to remove anti-gay language from that document, though he did not succeed on all counts.

Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) made clear that she did not support Bush's election, but given that and some of the ideological differences she has with Thompson, she was "excited" by knowing the secretary-designate and having "worked well" with him when she was in the Wisconsin Legislature.

"He really was a friend for us during the whole platform issue," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "We forged a good connection with him," that should be the basis for a solid relationship over the next four years.

"Tommy is a good guy, I've been encouraging the community to be supportive," said Steve Gun-

derson, the openly gay former congressman from Wisconsin. His relationship with Thompson dates from 1974 when both served in the state Legislature.

Gunderson cited Thompson's strong record on supporting the fight against AIDS. "He did it in a very traditional Republican way, in essence he contracted out most of the activities to the AIDS Resources Center of Wisconsin." The center had the funding and the flexibility to respond to emerging challenges.

"Thompson has been pretty good on health policy," said Christopher LaBonte, health policy analyst with the Human Rights Campaign. He thought they could work together on most issues.

"I'm optimistic about him," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS. "He has a record in Wisconsin as someone who is supportive on HIV issues. I think he will turn out to be a friend."

Anderson is "encouraged" by Thompson's record of "expanding Medicaid to people who are disabled" in Wisconsin. "That is something we need to be looking to do nationally." AIDS advocates have urged that for years. Vice President Al Gore pledged his support in April 1997, but the administration backed off when they found that expansion would cost money.

Thompson "really put the bucks behind moving people off of welfare, giving money for child care, training, transportation, and health insurance assistance," said Tom McCormack, author of *The*

AIDS Benefits Handbook. Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. are the only two jurisdictions that have expanded Medicaid to all families with children and an income of up to 200 percent of the poverty level.

Baldwin said the Wisconsin example of Medicaid expansion "clearly is an idea that needs to be exported" to the rest of the country. Thompson's commitment to states' rights means that he will not try to force programs upon state but will offer incentives to do so.

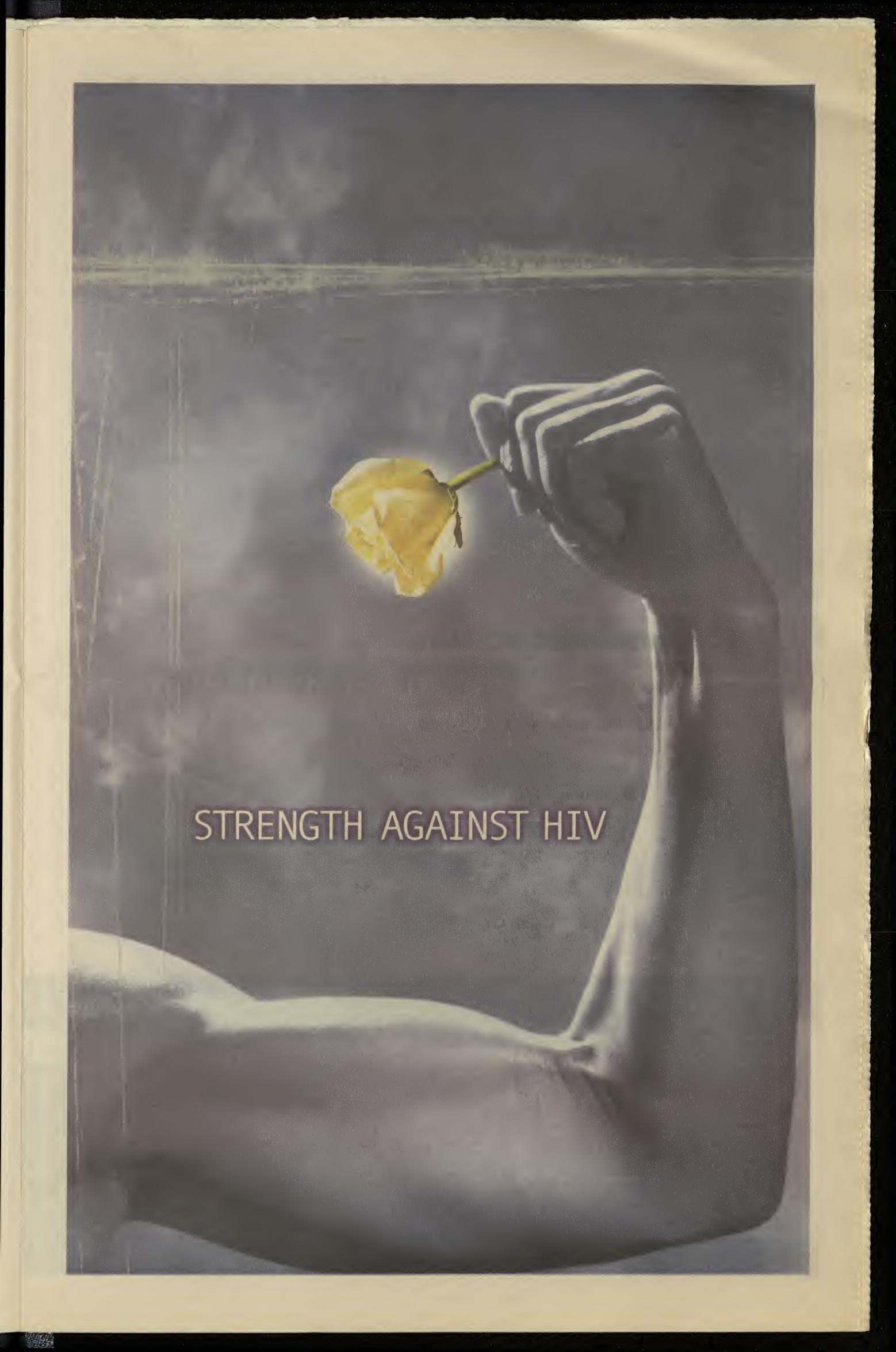
"He has a real eye to seeing that success is not punished," said Baldwin. Too often jurisdictions have been funded according to the scope of the problem, which sometimes penalizes those that have acted responsibly and used local resources to deal with them. Thompson "will try to find ways to reward localities that have initiated successful programs."

Thompson's appointment has fueled speculation that Gunderson might be named AIDS "czar." Gunderson hoped that he could be "a positive force in this area," though he did not know what route that might take. In a conversation in December, he said he would feel "a moral obligation to serve in the fight against AIDS" if asked to do so.

Other nominees

Gale Norton, 46, nominee for the Department of Interior, is controversial to some. Ardent environmentalists chastised her for working with predecessor James Watt and for her strong defense of property

page 24 ▶

A photograph of a single, closed yellow rose bud growing from a stack of folded laundry. The laundry is a dark, textured fabric, possibly a duvet or bedsheet, folded into a thick, rectangular pile. The rose bud is positioned on top of the laundry, its stem extending downwards. The background is a dark, out-of-focus landscape, possibly a field or a garden. The lighting is dramatic, with the yellow of the rose and the texture of the laundry being the primary focal points.

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At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of KALETRA on the clinical progression of HIV.



KALETRA helps fight HIV

New KALETRA, when taken with other medicines, has been shown to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD₄ T-cells. However, KALETRA is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time either. Individuals taking KALETRA may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection.

Over 24 weeks, most patients found that they could stay with a KALETRA-based regimen. Only 2% of 326 patients stopped taking KALETRA because of drug-related side effects (12% stopped for other reasons).

KALETRA is taken twice daily—in the morning and evening. Your healthcare professional will tell you how much KALETRA to take. KALETRA is to be taken with your choice of food, but there are no rules on what you eat or how much liquid you drink. KALETRA is also available as a liquid.

Safety considerations

KALETRA should not be used with ergotamine, ergonovine, dihydroergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot[®], Migranal[®], D.H.E. 45[®], Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine[®] and others, Halcion[®] (triazolam), Hismanal[®] (astemizole), Orap[®] (pimozide), Propulsid[®] (cisapride), Rythmol[®] (propafenone), Seldane[®] (terfenadine), TambocorTM (flecainide), Versed[®] (midazolam).

Taking certain drugs with KALETRA could create the potential for life-threatening side effects. Always talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA (lopinavir/ritonavir) or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. In some patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving ARV therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, which should be monitored before and during therapy.

The most commonly reported KALETRA-related side effects of moderate severity are: abnormal stools, diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea.

For more information about KALETRA: Call 1-800-441-4987 toll free.
Ask your doctor or other healthcare professional.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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A black and white photograph of a hand wearing a white glove, holding a single yellow rose. The rose is in sharp focus, while the background is blurred.
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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about drugs that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)
Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should start under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA:
Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
Halcion® (triazolam)
Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Rhythmol® (propafenone)
Seldane® (terfenadine)
Tambocor® (flecainide)
Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune™) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Other Special Considerations:**
KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:
Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others need new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Rumsfeld to head Pentagon

by Bob Roehr

Gay and lesbian leaders greeted with a sigh of relief the December 28 nomination of Donald Rumsfeld, 68, to be secretary of defense. While there is little hope that the anti-gay policy will be quickly reversed, they believe that it can be more fairly implemented and anti-gay harassment may decline within the military.

A leading contender for the position had been former Senator Dan Coats (R-Indiana), a prospect that greatly troubled Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. Coats had one of the least friendly voting records on gay issues when he was in the Senate and strongly pushed to fully ban gays from serving in the military.

Groups like the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network made public concerns they had with Coats, while other groups and individuals used private channels to make sure that president-elect George W. Bush was aware that the issue would arise during confirmation hearings.

It is far from clear what impact that had on Bush's final decision regarding Coats, and even if it were a major factor, the Republican would be loath to admit it. Such a declaration would only alienate part of the conservative coalition that helped elect him, while doing little to build support elsewhere.

Transition advisers, speaking on background, told the press that there were some concerns over Coats's experience in managing a large operation such as the Pentagon. And the interview with Bush simply did not overcome those reservations.

The surprise decision to turn

to Rumsfeld seemed to reflect the physician's adage of "first, do no harm" by avoiding politically controversial issues such as DADT. It was reinforced at the news conference when Rumsfeld was asked about the policy and responded, "the priorities are in other areas for me."

"The signal that sends is that he will do that which Bush asks him to do," said SLDN co-director Dixon Osburn. As Bush supports DADT, "I take that to mean that we are going to have the status quo rather than backsliding," he said. "That is an improvement from where the GOP was in 1993."

Osburn noted that "gay discharges have skyrocketed 73 percent since the policy was first implemented" in 1993. The organization helped about 300 clients in 1999 and "close to 600" in 2000.

The administration cannot act alone and "the current political environment is Congress is that the policy is not going to be overturned in the near term," said Osburn. But a statement that Rumsfeld made during the 1993 debate on DADT leads Osburn to believe that the secretary-designate understands the chain of command and will implement the policy fairly. That sort of leadership could lead to fewer discharges.

Rumsfeld's mandate from Bush to modernize the military for the 21st century may also provide cover to eventually eliminate DADT, perhaps as part of broader changes in personnel matters.

The AIDS connection

This is the second time around the inner ring of the Pentagon for Rumsfeld. At 43 he became the youngest secretary of defense ever, serving in the office for the last 14 months of the Gerald Ford administration in the mid-1970s. Previous stops had been as a moderate Republican from Illinois in

the U.S. House of Representatives, and as White House chief of staff. As head of the Office of Economic Opportunity, he hired a young Dick Cheney, now vice president-elect.

After leaving Washington, Rumsfeld worked as CEO of the pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle, now merged into Pharmacia, and with the high tech company General Instrument Corporation. He also served on the board of directors of the RAND Corporation, a conservative think tank that produced a 1993 report saying that there need not be significant problems in allowing gays to serve openly in the military.

Few news accounts mentioned that for the last four years Rumsfeld has served as chairman of the board of Gilead Sciences. It is unusual for a man of his prestige to join what was then a very small pharmaceutical company of about 250 employees, located just south of San Francisco. It has since grown to about 750 employees.

A substantial portion of

Gilead's activities are directed toward HIV. The company had the dubious distinction in the fall of 1999 of having a FDA advisory committee decline to support approval of their antiviral drug adefovir. The problems were limited efficacy combined with long-term toxicity that the committee felt required further testing.

Gilead subsequently developed adefovir at lower doses to treat hepatitis B. It has a second-generation compound with greater efficacy against HIV and lower toxicity, tenofovir, in advanced clinical trials. And it is providing marketing and distribution for Virco's genotypic and phenotypic tests for determining HIV mutation resistance to specific drugs.

All of this suggests that Rumsfeld would be supportive of Department of Defense research efforts on HIV. The department has a strong vaccine research program. Forces both within and outside of the Pentagon have sought to eliminate those programs in the past and nearly succeeded. ▼

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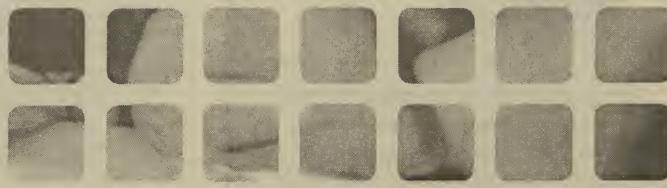
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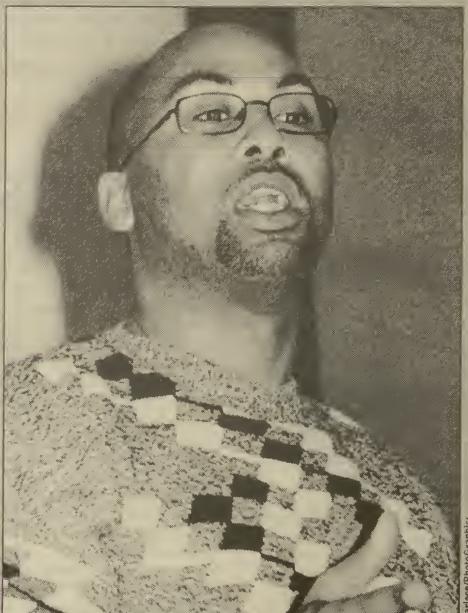
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All Gay Life programs are free of charge. For more information and reservations call 415.788.LIFE or visit www.gaylife.org.

Celebrating Kwanzaa



Edward James Hampton Jr. was one of several speakers at the annual Kwanzaa event held last Thursday at the San Francisco Public Library. Kwanzaa, first fruits of the harvest, is a celebration of community, family, commitment, and blessings. The December 28 event included members of the Black Gay Letters and Arts Movement and was sponsored by the library's African American and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian centers, with support from LGADDA.

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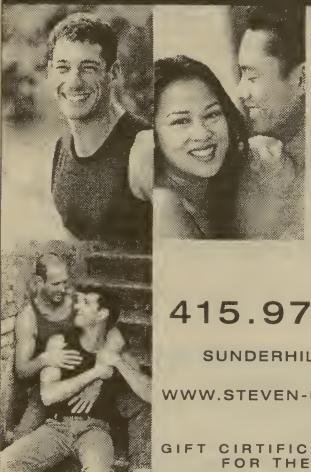
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HRC named PlanetOut's 'Person of the Year'

by Terry Beswick

Everyone was a winner last month at PlanetOut, the online gay and lesbian newsmagazine that drew up a list of 91 of the "most important, inspiring, groundbreaking, and newsworthy" individuals and LGBT-friendly organizations of the last year and gave its average 1.7 million monthly visitors a chance to choose their top 10 favorites.

Adding yet another feather to her cap, U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-New York) was named "PlanetOut Person of the Year." PlanetOut won't say how many online votes the outgoing first lady received, but she "won in a landslide," according to Jenni Olson, senior entertainment editor at PlanetOut.

Perhaps forever doomed to live in his boss's shadow, Vice President Al Gore took number five. And taking the number six spot were the Big Three automakers (General Motors, Ford, the Chrysler division of Daimler-Chrysler) that announced last August that they would begin offering spousal benefits to same-gender partners of gay and lesbian employees. The state of Vermont and its governor, Howard Dean, were at numbers seven and eight, respectively, in recognition of the New England state's adoption of the same-sex civil union law that took effect in 2000.

Rounding out the top 10 were DeGeneres's mom, Betty, who writes an advice column for PlanetOut and has been active in advocating acceptance of LGBT family members, and U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), who became the first openly lesbian woman to be elected to Congress in 1998. She won re-election last year.

Yet all 91 of the staff-selected candidates for "Planet Out Person of the Year" were considered "win-

Ashcroft nomination opposed by most gay leaders

by Bob Roehr

The nomination of John Ashcroft to be attorney general has brought words of rebuke from many gay and civil rights leaders and the liberal end of the political spectrum. It promises to be the most contentious of President-elect George W. Bush's cabinet appointments, though he is likely to be confirmed.

It was no coincidence that announcement of the arch-conservative Ashcroft on December 22 was paired with that of the most moderate member of the cabinet, New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman to head up the Environmental Protection Agency. She is a very gay friendly politician.

Ashcroft was defeated in his 2000 bid for re-election to the U.S. Senate from Missouri. He previously had been elected attorney general and governor of that state. While in the Senate he served on the Judiciary Committee, which

Rodham Clinton, who recently secured an \$8 million advance from Simon & Schuster for her White House memoirs, placed way ahead of first runner-up, comedienne Ellen DeGeneres, the only candidate from the entertainment world to make it onto the top 10 list.

"The trend that I was most pleased with was that the top 10 were mostly political and social issues and concerns," said Olson, who attributed this to the fact that it was a presidential election year.

The number three spot went to James Dale, the former assistant scoutmaster who took his righteous but unsuccessful discrimination case against the homophobic Boy Scouts of America all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The fourth place spot went to outgoing President Bill Clinton, husband of the senator.

Perhaps forever doomed to live in his boss's shadow, Vice President Al Gore took number five. And taking the number six spot were the Big Three automakers (General Motors, Ford, the Chrysler division of Daimler-Chrysler) that announced last August that they would begin offering spousal benefits to same-gender partners of gay and lesbian employees. The state of Vermont and its governor, Howard Dean, were at numbers seven and eight, respectively, in recognition of the New England state's adoption of the same-sex civil union law that took effect in 2000.

Rounding out the top 10 were DeGeneres's mom, Betty, who writes an advice column for PlanetOut and has been active in advocating acceptance of LGBT family members, and U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), who became the first openly lesbian woman to be elected to Congress in 1998. She won re-election last year.

Yet all 91 of the staff-selected candidates for "Planet Out Person of the Year" were considered "win-



John Ashcroft

will hold hearings on his confirmation as attorney general.

His record in the Senate included votes against pro-gay bills such as hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. He consistently supported restrictions on abortion, and blocked the nomination of African American Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie

ners" of sorts, as they all received at least some votes from the over 50,000 visitors to the Web site who participated, and therefore were included on PlanetOut's so-called "in" list.

Given that PlanetOut won't say how many votes any of the "in" nominees received, and with queer Machiavellian Richard Hatch – the last rat-ear left standing on last year's *Survivor*, the hugely popular reality TV mini-series – at number 45, some might consider anyone who figured below that more "out" than "in."

Immediately below Hatch, for example, sits President-elect George W. Bush, winner of the first U.S. presidency of the new millennium. Olson said Bush was included on PlanetOut's list because of his meeting with gay Republicans during last year's presidential campaign, but she could not say whether Bush had garnered more complaints over his being included on the list than votes in his favor from PlanetOuters. No independent recount is planned.

"Yes, George W. Bush is the first Republican to reach out to gays, but does anyone remember his comments of last summer: 'I would never knowingly hire a homosexual'?" Does this comment have any influence on his placement, even on the consideration list? People all too quickly forget the evils he spoke of once he extends an olive branch," posted "bstngayboy" to PlanetOut's message board. "I just think that more thought and reflection should be taken into account before putting George W. on this list. He is an admitted homophobe who has no place on this nomination list!"

Another controversial choice, relegated by voters to number 79 on the list, was John Pauk, former chair of Exodus International, who disgraced the "ex-gay" movement he helped to build by getting caught in a gay bar in Washington, D.C. last year. ▼

White to the federal judiciary. Jesse Jackson, People for the American Way, and the National Organization for Women are opposing Ashcroft.

"We are extremely dismayed with the Ashcroft nomination, which represents a clear U-turn in Bush's pledge to bring Americans together," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. His "dismal record for racial, gender, and sexual orientation civil rights issues raises serious concerns about his ability to enforce our nation's civil rights law."

Ashcroft has a rating of zero from HRC over his six years in the Senate. "It was not just his votes but his aggressive attacks" on gay measures that concerns them, said HRC spokesman David Smith. The organization is consulting with allies and friends in the Senate to determine their formal course of action.

Rich Tafel, executive director of

page 24 ▶

Leslie Katz

◀ page 1

partner coverage; today there are almost 120 insurance companies that offer coverage. That's a direct result of the law."

The effort to get widespread support for the equal benefits ordinance included a meeting with the San Francisco Archdiocese, which had strongly opposed the law. City officials who met with the archbishop – including Katz, Leal, and Ammiano – worked out an agreement that the Catholic Church could live with. The city ordinance was amended to include a provision that the benefits could extend to any family member, thereby making it more broad than originally intended.

Katz also took the lead on a host of environmental issues, including: a ban on billboard advertising on the bay; a ban on the city's use of old-growth redwood; the introduction of a Bicycle Transit Enhancement Plan; and a tree and landscape ordinance to protect trees in the urban environment.

"I did quite a bit of work on environmental issues. Physically, there are more trees," she said. Another change is that construction crews must water down sites, particularly those near schools, in an effort to curb dust.

The area of new media was another important legislative area for Katz. She's a strong advocate of public/private partnerships and as supervisor, spearheaded initiatives aimed at growing and retaining the digital media industry in San Francisco.

Coming together

Housing – or more accurately the lack of affordable housing – emerged as the dominant campaign theme in the supervisorial



Outgoing Supervisor Leslie Katz talked about her accomplishments

tion, but they did come up short with regard to winning their races. Progressives will dominate the new board, and most of them are men. During last year's campaigns, many progressive queers opted to support progressive heterosexuals, rather than gay and lesbian candidates they felt would not be independent of the mayor. The city's two gay political clubs, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay De-

hold our gains." Two recent examples where the community came together were over the boycott of United Airlines that ended when the airline announced that it would comply with the equal benefits ordinance, and the numerous demonstrations here and in cities around the country opposing homophobe Dr. Laura Schlessinger's television show. Schlessinger's show debuted last fall, and quickly plummeted in the ratings.

"We need to work together, and people will need to find consensus," Katz said, adding that she was disappointed that some issues did not get resolved while she was on the board, including more in the way of affordable housing.

As for the city's economy, Katz sees it as slowing down – she lost her own job as a corporate executive at a dot-com company – but that doesn't mean it's in bad shape. "It doesn't have to be catastrophic. A lot of dot-coms had stupid business plans, some have good ideas. Hopefully, there won't be a panic. The [incoming Bush] administration should be saying it's a natural leveling out, not a panic," she said.

Asked about the divisions within the LGBT community, Katz said that she hopes people can come together.

"I'm an eternal optimist. Every community has differences of opinion but, especially given what we face in Washington, the bigger issues bring us together," Katz said. "It becomes a battle of personalities."

Katz, a longtime Democrat and vice chair of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, where she's been an elected member since 1988, was not happy with the presidential election result, and was cautious about President-elect George W. Bush.

"Now that we have a much more significant enemy – I hate to use that word – rights may be eroded – we've seen that at the Supreme Court – and that scares me, especially as a lawyer," she said. "We need to stop fighting among ourselves and we will need to be much more unified to

"I hope people will share ideas with each other," Katz said, adding that she's passed along some proposals to Chris Daly, who was elected from District 6. "I'd like to see the men pick up some of the women's issues."

races last year, and Katz's decision not to seek re-election was also shaped in part by the city's housing crunch. She described herself as a proponent of developing housing near public transit facilities.

"The city is landlocked," she noted.

One project Katz worked on for over two years was the proposal for a new Transbay Terminal, which would include a number of housing units. Another was helping secure the first round of funding for a queer youth housing facility in the Castro, though that has yet to open.

As a lesbian and a supervisor, Katz said she worked on issues important to the queer community and also to other city residents. In the process, more San Franciscans became aware of LGBT people, she said. "At one point, three out of 11 supervisors were queer, and all of us represented the city as a whole."

That will change this week, when Ammiano and Mark Leno will be sworn in as the city's only two openly gay supervisors. There was no shortage of LGBT candidates during last year's elec-

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ICAAC: AIDS death rate down by two thirds

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Researchers and AIDS activists have gathered at ICAAC once again and the news is not getting better. Reports posted at the conference in Toronto point out that while AIDS deaths are down since 1995, they are only down by about two thirds annually — meaning many are still dying from the disease.

Also reported at the conference was that human papilloma virus (HPV) is ever prevalent and creating havoc for HIV-infected persons, especially women.

What are the leading causes of death among HIV-infected and which OIs are now most commonplace? Tim Horn and James F. Braun, of Physician's Research Network, have given Survive AIDS permission to reprint part of their detailed report from ICAAC.

Letter from Toronto: AIDS-Related Opportunistic Infections at the 40th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

Amidst the reports on novel antiretrovirals, drug resistance, and side effects, a handful of presentations at this year's Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy focused on the trends and clinical management of AIDS-related opportunistic infections in the era of HAART. Over the past few years, it appears that the incidence rates of OIs have leveled off. And while there has been little hard evidence to suggest that a resurgence in OIs is on the horizon, it remains a grim possibility because of the risk of treatment failure in patients developing multi-drug resistance.

For Dr. Patrick Sullivan and his colleagues at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the incidence of acute OIs in the era of HAART is an important measure of HIV-associated morbidity and is a proxy for the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy and OI prophylaxis (Abstract 1907). Drawing upon data from the Adult and Adolescent Spectrum of HIV Disease Project, the CDC team analyzed the medical records of more than 26,000 persons living in 11 U.S. cities, adding up to more than 47,000 person-years of follow-up.

For all risk groups — categorized as men who have sex with men, injection drug users (IDUs), and those infected through heterosexual sex — the incidence of OIs has declined significantly, ranging from 203/1000 person-years in 1993 to 80/1000 person-years in 1999. Of concern, however, were the rates of decline from 1998 to 1999. According to the CDC's report, the decline among men who have sex with men and IDUs during this period was not statistically significant, and the incidence of new OIs among heterosexuals has not significantly declined since 1996. Based on these findings, Dr. Sullivan indicated that the reduction in OIs among all risk groups appears to be leveling off and that it will be important to watch epidemiological data in the months to come.

Dr. Susan Jacobson and her colleagues at Alta Bates Medical Center in Berkeley and the University of California, San Francisco, examined the causes and predictors of death in 56 HIV-infected patients who died in the Bay Area between 1998 and 1999 (Abstract 1907). Twenty-five patients (45 percent) died of a typical AIDS-related manifestation or OI. The remaining 55 percent, however, died of other complications including sepsis (12.5 percent), liver or kidney end-organ failure (11 percent), cardiovascular disease (9 percent), non-HIV-related malignancy (7 percent), sudden accidental death (11 percent), and various other causes (12.5 percent).

Dr. Jacobson's team concluded that patients are still dying of AIDS-related OIs and that consistent use of HAART appears to play a role in survival. At the same time, the relatively high rates of end-organ and cardiovascular fatalities are issues to be reckoned with and should be explored further in clinical studies.

Viral infections: The song remains the same

While there is no denying that HAART has had — and continues to have — a profound impact on the incidence and severity of numerous opportunistic infections, there are a few viral-related OIs that appear to have gone virtually unscathed by antiretroviral therapy: hepatitis and genital neoplasia. Updates regarding the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of both manifestations were provided in a single symposium at ICAAC, the former covered by Dr. Stephen Ray of Johns Hopkins University and the latter delivered by Dr. Thomas Wright of Columbia University.

Hepatitis C virus

The central focus of Dr. Ray's talk was HCV-associated hepatitis in the setting of HIV. As discussed by Dr. Ray and in two recent issues of *The PRN Notebook* (September 1999 and June 2000), HCV is now classified as an opportunistic infection because the relative risk for liver-associated mortality is increased sevenfold in HIV-positive compared to HIV-negative individuals.

Human papilloma virus

Wrapping up the two and a half-hour symposium on viral coinfections with HIV was an exhaustive review of human papillomavirus-associated manifestations. As explained by Dr. Wright, there are more than 100 types of HPV. HPV-6 and HPV-11 are most often associated with either viral condyloma or mild dysplastic changes, whereas HPV types 16 and 18 two common strains containing oncogenes and considered carcinogens by the World Health Organization are more likely to cause more severe genital lesions and invasive carcinoma.

In describing the incidence and prevalence of HPV infection and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) in HIV-positive

women, Dr. Wright turned to data produced by the New York Cervical Disease Study, a cohort in which he participated as an investigator (Sun, 1997). According to Dr. Wright, HIV-positive women (n=396) were much more likely than their HIV-negative counterparts (n=368) to be infected with any HPV type (60 percent versus 35 percent, respectively). HPV types 16 and 18 were also more common among

HIV-positive women than HIV-negative women (16 percent and 14 percent versus 6 percent and 3 percent, respectively). HIV-positive women were also more likely to be infected with more than one HPV type when compared to HIV-negative women (31 percent versus 9 percent, respectively).

Comparable differences have been reported by Dr. Joel Palefsky of the University of California, San Francisco, and his colleagues (Palefsky, 1999). As described in a report appearing in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, PCR was used to assess HPV in cervicovaginal fluids collected from 2,015 HIV-positive women and 577 HIV-negative controls. HPV infection was found in 58 percent of the HIV-positive patients, compared to 26 percent of the controls. As with the NYCD study, infection with multiple HPV types was more common among HIV-positive women than HIV-negative women (42 percent versus 16 percent, respectively), and approximately 24 percent of the HIV-positive women were found to be infected with three or more HPV types.

A poster presentation by researchers at Emory University indicated that oral HPV infection and manifestation are on the rise among HIV-positive patients (Abstract 67). ▼

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OBITUARIES

Memorial service for Paul Wotman Sunday

by Katie Szymanski

A "Celebration of Life" will be held this Sunday, January 7, in memory of San Francisco civil rights attorney Paul F. Wotman. Family and friends will gather at the home he shared with partner Danny Scheie, 876 Castro Street (near 22nd Street) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Wotman, of the city's well-known law firm Wotman & Cloutier, was a pioneer in the field of LGBT and HIV law, representing people who were victims of discrimination and abuse in housing, employment, and public services.

In 1991, he secured the largest amount ever awarded in a gay employment discrimination case when Shell Oil was ordered to pay \$5.3 million in back pay and damages to an employee who was fired for being an active homosexual. Wotman took other famous cases through the years, including those that tackled same-sex sexual harassment, misdiagnosis of HIV, and hate crimes. He had numerous appearances on television's *Oprah*, *Larry King Live*, *Donahue*, and other shows, and was requested to speak at many gay and lesbian organizations. It is estimated in the last 15 years that Wotman represented over 2,200 clients who were fighting bias related to sexu-

al orientation and/or HIV status; details of many of these cases can be found on his Web site, www.wotman.com.

Wotman had been battling lymphoma for about one year when he succumbed to the disease at his home on Christmas Day. He was 49.

In lieu of gifts, contributions may be made to the Human Rights Campaign, 919 18th Street, NW Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20006-5509; or the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, 6030 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

For more information on the celebration of life, call (415)285-9583. ▼

John Patrick D'Hondt (AKA Johnny D)
November 18, 1953 — November 26, 2000



John D'Hondt was a familiar face in the Castro, often seen at cafes or riding his beloved bicycle. To many he was better known as Johnny D, whose bright, clever cabaret performances included "A Letter From Joan Baez," "Collar Me Blue," and "Requiem for the Singing Nun." John was the author of *The Bunny Book* (GLB Publishers, 1991), a memoir/novel about the death of his lover Peter Grote from AIDS, and the personal mythology they shared. His other writings include the short stories "Letter From the Tundra" and "Motown Over

Moscow."

In recent years, striving to make sense of his childhood desire to become a priest or monk, his research delved into esoteric medieval mysticism. He was also at work on a book about the Singing Nun. After a day's research at UC or the Holy Hill seminaries, he loved to cycle up to the Berkeley Rose Garden to take in the beauty.

Johnny D leaves many adoring and loving friends and family whose lives are richer for having known him. We will celebrate his life with a mass at The Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond at 18th Street, San Francisco, on Thursday, January 11, 2001 at 7:30pm. Refreshments will follow. Telephone (415) 643-6731.

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

Dorrwin Jones

◀ page 1

he held for 17 years. He also served on the boards of directors of the Booker T. Washington Community Center and the Western Addition Senior Citizen's Center.

Jones leaves behind a wide circle of friends and admirers in many communities of San Francisco.

"If he went to Rome and appeared on the balcony of the Vatican with the pope, people would say, 'Who's that with Dorrwin?'" said Sister Ruth. "A lot of people who were his close friends didn't know each other. He was just a sweet and kind man to so many people," including many families of people with AIDS who came to stay at Family Link, often in a state of shock and confusion.

Born February 23, 1934 in Bronson, Michigan, Jones was the youngest of three children of John Hunter Jones, a barber, and Hazel Buck Jones, a beautician. His mother died when he was 5 years old.

Jones was preceded in death by his partner of 32 years, James Harvey, a book publisher, and by his brother and sister.

Bob Ross, publisher of the *Bay Area Reporter* and who serves on the Meals on Wheels board, recalled his early encounters with Jones. "I first met Dorr almost 40 years ago when he and his lover Jim lived in the house next door to



Rick Gerharter

Dorrwin Buck Jones

me. This was a small shingled house on the corner of Union and Jones streets, right down the hill from Macondray Lane, the street made famous by Armistead Maupin in *Tales of the City*.

Ross said that Jones was constantly complaining of heart problems then, though it didn't ever seem to slow him down. "He just kept on fighting for the rights of people even then," Ross added.

Jones testified before congressional committees, state boards, as well as local government bodies. "He became the ultimate authority on the rights of seniors and their many problems before it was ever fashionable. Almost 30 years ago he founded Meals on Wheels San Francisco, an organization

which has grown to the large viable caregiver that it is today.

"Then along came the AIDS epidemic and Dorr jumped into this fight with a zeal that was remarkable. Many of the organizations that handle this disease today are an outgrowth of many efforts on the part of Dorr in this fight," Ross added. "To his dying days he was still fighting for people's right to exist."

"He was a giant of a man who has left a very definite legacy in San Francisco. I for one will miss him very much—his enormous wit, his zeal for living, and always a kind word for everyone. You made our lives richer by just knowing you."

"He was adamant that there be no memorial," said Sister Ruth, adding that instead there would be a party to celebrate Jones's life. The celebration will be held on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Monday, January 15, from 4-6 p.m. in the chapel of the Park Hill Condominiums at 355 Buena Vista East.

Also at Jones's request, contributions in his memory may be made to any charitable organization he supported. In particular, contributions may be sent to the Strybing Arboretum Society of Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA 94122, or to the San Francisco Chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2500 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcoming in 2001



Men of All Colors Together celebrated the start of the new millennium New Year's Day at its 14th annual John E. Teamer Black-Eyed Pea Dinner and Awards Ceremony at MCC-SF. From left, Kevin Havener, Ernest W. Ertz, Ted Friedman, John Tunui, Jonathan Mortimer, Richard Brown, Tyle Doerr, and Gary are all smiles. MACT is a gay multiracial and multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome. The group plans monthly events throughout the year; for more information, call (415) 675-0201.

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Walkabout

by Jim Provenzano

Walking is good for you. Walking really fast is also good for you, supposedly better than running, since the impact of running is a few hundred pounds per step. This may explain why so many seniors choose that waddly silly-looking fast walking, which was actually an event at our recent Gay Games.

Walking forward may give one the impression of progressing, of moving in a linear direction, as does the antiquated notion of calendars dated by the birth of certain religious celebrities.

But the presumption that gay rights, like gaily exercising, will always progress forward, is naive at best.

In these new Shrub-ian times, it seems we are obligated to be activists again, since we now have a more obvious enemy. After all, demonstrating against Clinton would have been wrong, right?

Like a substitute gym coach, Elizabeth Toledo says we should all take up our marching shoes/boots and become even more "active" than ever before.

Mrs. Toledo, you may know, is the current head honcho at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, a group which continues to barrage me with junk mail donation requests, even phone calls begging for money to tell me that I need to fight for gay rights. NGLTF needs the money to hold its annual conferences at Marriott hotels, which are co-owned by the Mormon Church, a group able to whip up several million dollars to abolish gay marriage in California, thanks to the fees paid by groups like NGLTF.

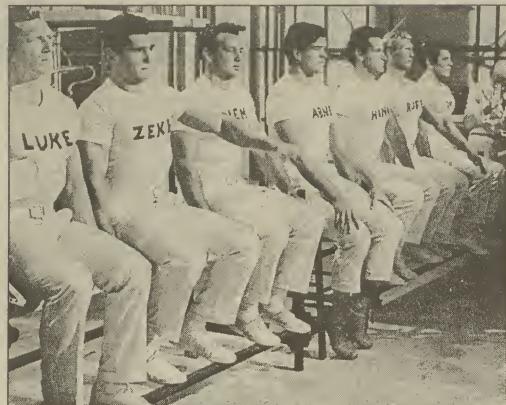
Mrs. Toledo has been an openly lesbian activist for a little over a year. She was, until very recently, married with kids, but admittedly, doing great work with NOW. Still, another small problem with NGLTF is its refusal to hire a male executive director in decades.

While Mrs. Toledo was home raising a heterosexual family, with gay rights merely an abstract concept, some of us in ACT UP/NY in 1991 were marching right up to the door of Herr Bush's summer home in Kennebunk. That Mrs. Toledo has blown the whistle for us all to dust off our combat boots and lay ourselves on the line for our right to be a target market is commendable to some, futile to others.

Marching, like walking fast, can be seen as silly to bystanders, but it's good exercise for the soul and brain as well as the legs.

But while one pal conjectured that having a rank moron in the White House may stir up some sort of renaissance of street activism, that prospect seems dim, even though we're already backed up against a very flimsy civil rights wall. While panic can burn calories, it is not recommended aerobic exercise. Marching, walking, and running are good for the body, but after a point the athlete of civil rights may notice a familiar tread, one that moves not forward, but in circles.

With the online revolution having turned a nation of letter writers and protesters into e-mailers and Matthew Shepard



Cryogenically frozen gay activists thaw out.

Memorial Web site builders, the concept of 1990s style activism making a comeback is problematic.

One of the great skills of the AIDS activist movement of the last century was our ability to not only

get thousands of people in the streets, but getting the complacent and homo-senseless media to cover these demos. Getting our sound bytes on TV helped further the agenda.

With the major gay media now controlled by a Maoist Gang of Four that is financially beholden to the *New York Times*, pharmaceutical companies, and AOL, it's far from likely that the gay cabal (which I shall from now on only refer to as the Gay Borg) is about to bite any of the hands that feed it. With the major media only relying on the Gay Borg for its news, things get blander by the e-minute.

Certainly they have their little "activist" pages and message boards, and bully for that. But having my dear old editor and co-conspirator Michelangelo Signorile break a story about Millennial March Mendacity didn't stop his employers from aiding and abetting yet another gay party malfeasance of funds.

Homo cash flow no mo'

How does this affect gay sports? Directly, to be sure. When gay media sponsor an event, they control or destroy its chances of success.

In Australia, gay newspapers have suffered a media collapse on the order of Neville Shute's *On the Beach*.

Gay Games VI organizers have announced a huge financial decrease in available funding for the quadrennial sports event, scheduled for October 24 - November 9, 2002.

The adjustment is a result of the New South Wales government's refusal to contribute \$1.23 million (U.S.) in funding. Additionally, one of the largest sponsors of Gay Games 2002, the Satellite Group, recently went into receivership.

The Satellite Group, which owned many of Australia's gay and lesbian newspapers, suspended operations on November 24 of last year, and laid off 50 staffers.

Satellite owned gay papers *Capital Q*, *Melbourne Star Observer*, *Brother Sister Victoria*, *Brother Sister Queensland*, *Adelaide GT* and the *Westside Observer*.

Imagine one corporation owning the six best gay newspapers in America, and then going out of business. Can't happen here, you say. Well, neither can massive election fraud, right?

Unlike the financial smoke and mirrors hoax perpetrated by Dutch organizers of Gay Games V, the Aussie organizers have been forced to come clean and reorganize their priorities well before the event.

Unfortunately, the strong-willed Garrie Gibson, who swept through the U.S. in a recent promotional tour, has left his position as chief executive of Gay Games VI. Gibson had strong ties to government funding, not strong enough, though, apparently. In lieu of the global financial seesaw, or due to a renewed conservatism down under, that's no longer an option.

Let's hope that scaling back will reflect the original intention, that of focusing on athletics over pageantry - that is, if any of us can still afford to go by then.

Gay fans may be able to watch the Internet simulcast of Gay Games VI on the Gay Borg's Web sites, which bought the rights to its broadcast last year.

That is, if they're still around by then.

Etcetera & erratum

Last week's list of sports groups had a few errors: It's www.gaybasketball.com, not [gaybasketball.org](http://www.gaybasketball.org). Also, the contact for gay Tae Kwan Do Martial Arts' Ken Craig is (415) 567-8866 or e-mail ttkdc@aol.com.

To contact the Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists, contact Allen Wood at jimallen@backinsf.com or (415) 563-1655 (call after 5 p.m.) or write IAGLMA, P. O. Box 590601, San Francisco, CA 94159.

Bay Area Distance Runners (BADR) is the marathon training and running group with over 150 members. They host one 1/2 marathon a year - the BADR 1/2 marathon on Mother's Day - four marathons a year, and serve as training for Gay Games marathoners. The group usually meets early every other Sunday morning in San Francisco. For info, call Dave at (415) 626-1380.

Tune in to the second part of my talk with fellow B.A.R. contributor David Lamble on his radio show, "Straight Jacket," Monday, January 8, at 12:30 p.m. on Berkeley's KALX, 90.7 FM. We'll be discussing my novel, *PINS*, about gay wrestlers. For more info, visit <http://www.myrmidude.com>. ▼

Catholics

◀ page 4

supporters will walk into St. Peter's Square, hoping to be blessed as "gay children of God."

"On January 6, after the Festive Mass led by the pope in St. Peter's Square, we will repeat our march to the barrier, only this time the gifts will be ourselves," said Mary Louise Cervone, president of Dignity/USA, in a statement. "Representing the millions of gay Catholics who love and serve the church, we will carry gifts marked, 'gay priests, gay nuns, gay bishops, gay laity.' In asking to be blessed we are asking the church to take one small step toward reconciliation."

"Although all of our protests are done in the spirit of non-violence as taught by Gandhi and King, we decided not to stage our demonstrations in the Vatican City-state," explained Dr. Mel White, executive director of Soulforce. "After meeting with Vatican officials and police, and taking our goals of spiritual renewal, non-violence, and reconciliation into account, we will conduct a very different kind of action, initially staying outside the barriers in hopes that the Vatican will recognize us there."

On November 14, 104 people were arrested in a non-violent civil disobedience organized by

Soulforce and Dignity/USA at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., to protest the exclusionary policies of the Catholic Church toward GLBT Catholics.

A statement addressed to Pope John Paul II, "Why We Stand Vigil," will be delivered to church officials as part of this week's "Stop Spiritual Violence" protest.

"Church teachings declare homosexual orientation 'objectively disordered' and loving, intimate acts 'intrinsically evil,'" reads the statement, which begins by enumerating many of the church's wrongs. "In recent days, the Vatican has declared same-sex unions 'a deplorable distortion' and adoption by gay parents 'a grave danger.' The Vatican supports laws which deny us the right to employment, to housing, to equal government and employment benefits, to teach, to coach, to serve in the military, to adopt, to serve as foster parents, or to marry the person we love."

"Millions of dollars of church funds are being used in the U.S. to support ballot measures that would deny gays their civil rights. Priests who defend their gay congregants (or even provide them pastoral care) are being silenced and even stripped of their ministries. While the HIV/AIDS epidemic rages, Roman Catholic teachings against safer-sex practices have become a public health

hazard."

The statement calls upon the pope to change his ways, or at least "to sit down with gay people" and "consider seriously the evidence we bring that the current church teachings about sexual orientation are based on ancient prejudice, superstition, and fear."

"In the spirit of Jesus, who called us 'to do justice, love mercy, and seek truth,' you refuse to hear us, we have no other choice but to

resist relentlessly your teachings and actions against homosexuality and homosexuals. We begin with a call to Catholics to withhold their tithes and their talents from the Roman Catholic Church until these tragic teachings end," read the Soulforce-Dignity/USA statement.

In San Francisco, the candle-light march and vigil will be led by Gilberto Gonzalez, co-chair of Dignity/SF and the Reverend

Penny Nixon, senior pastor of MCC-SF.

Soulforce (www.soulforce.org) is an interfaith network committed to applying the principles of nonviolent resistance as taught by Gandhi and King to the liberation of sexual and gender minorities. Dignity/USA (www.DignityUSA.org) is the oldest and largest independent national lay movement of GLBT Catholics, their families, and friends. ▼

Gonzalez

◀ page 2

cause they are incredibly informed."

While he laments the lack of women elected to the board in December, his commitment to equality stands, and he believes "at the end of the day it's about who represents your issues."

"If you look at the U.S. Supreme Court," he pointed out, "I'd take William Brennan over Sandra Day O'Connor."

When his supervisorial term starts this week, he knows of two things he'll definitely do right away. The first is to support Supervisor Tom Ammiano for board president, the openly gay supe who has held that post for the past two years. Ammiano is largely credited with ushering in the return of district elections, the process by which Gonzalez and many other progressives were newly voted into office.

"For so long, Ammiano was really fighting that battle alone. He's got a bad rap for being ineffectual which of course is because he was dealing with a machine board," said Gonzalez, referring to the fact that Ammiano had a hard time

passing legislation through supervisors that were appointed by or strongly supported Mayor Willie Brown. "It will be different to see him in action when he can actually pull together six votes. I like the idea of walking into someone's office and asking them to support an issue, knowing that it won't all come down to the phone call they get from the mayor."

The second thing Gonzalez will tackle is legislating the spirit of Proposition L, the growth control ballot measure that was narrowly defeated in the polls in November.

"We need to find a way to say very clearly that dot-coms are office spaces and live-work lofts are residential, and they should be paying their fair share of fees that go toward affordable housing," he said.

He'd also like to see that social service providers are paid like "first class citizens," wants the city to help nonprofits purchase their buildings, and believes now is the time to make headway on public power for San Francisco, a system that is already set up but is going to waste.

"It's not just that gas and electric bills would be lower," said Gonzalez of the need to utilize

what the government bestowed upon the city decades ago. "It's a source of revenue for public projects that could eliminate the bond measures that escalate tensions and burden the budget. Imagine being able to rebuild SF General or fix a library just because we have this power source."

With views so progressive they no longer fit into the centrist-leaning Democratic Party, Gonzalez recently switched his affiliation to the Green Party, and he has big plans for that political body as well.

"I think the biggest mistake of the Green Party is that it meets as an entire party, where the Democrats have clubs that allow more people to plug in," he said.

Enter the Gertrude Stein Green Club, to be launched this month by and for creative types with the help of Gonzalez, a member, incidentally, of the board of Intersection for the Arts.

The future looks bright and busy for Gonzalez as he prepares to build bridges to various communities and extend his service to his district and beyond. But his roots in LGBT politics, he promises, will not go unrecognized.

"It's not lost on me," he said, "that my political beginnings really come from this community." ▼

Our Man Friday

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world's first legal gay wedding in that Canadian city on January 14. However, Ontario's provincial government says it will not register the same-sex marriage. "Federal common law, as confirmed by recent federal legislation, defines marriage as the union for life [between] one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others," said Judy Hartman, Ontario's deputy register general. The January 14 ceremony is expected to add to growing pressure to allow same-sex marriages in Canada; in fact, the fight is supported by influential opinion makers from both the right and the left. Those favoring legalizing same-sex marriages in Canada say they will go to court if Ontario refuses to register the marriage, and one pastor, a conservative, said the legal opinion would be based on freedom of religion and on "Canadian law that says you cannot discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."

Meanwhile, in Salt Lake City, a group of more than 300 gay and lesbian Mormons and their family members is asking the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to change its stance on homosexuality. The loose-knit group ran an ad in the *Salt Lake Tribune* recently with a petition asking the church to repudiate statements that homosexuality is a sin; the church has yet to respond.

To the reader who wrote asking about Sheila Kuehl - yes, she was Zelda Gilroy on the 1960s series *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*; indeed she was the first openly gay (lesbian) state legislator in California, the first woman named speaker pro tem of the Assembly, and now the first openly gay California state senator.

Money talks? Governor Gray Davis appointed Bay Area real estate broker George M. Marcus, who gave a quarter million bucks to the Democratic Party in the past couple of years, to a vacancy on the UC Board of Regents (but the donations had nothing to do with the appointment).

Speaking of Democrats, former U.S. Senator Alan Cranston

passed away on December 31 and what an extraordinary public servant he was. He was one of the first U.S. senators to call for money for AIDS research and his advocacy for gay rights was well known. In 1986, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called Cranston the community's best friend in Washington.

From the "told you so" department: a *Miami Herald* analysis of Florida's November 7 election, the first to examine precinct-by-precinct trends, shows that lopsided loss of black votes occurred throughout that state. In nearly all of the state's precincts with a majority of black voters, presidential ballots were invalidated at much higher rates than in mostly white neighborhoods. Though the study found that poor and less-educated voters of all races were more likely than better-off voters to spoil their ballots, the balloting system in Jeb Bush's banana republic created problems that affected blacks in much greater measures.

And remember only last year when George W. Bush, who speaks fluent Spanish, predicted that his popularity in the Latino community would guarantee his carrying Florida "handily" and possibly even taking California? Well, needless to say, Bush lost California by more than a million votes, managed to steal the Florida election with the help of his governor-brother, and all this despite using nephew George P. Bush, the Spanish-speaking pretty boy who appeared everywhere nationwide where young girls and gay men were likely to vote.

And finally, a recent letter reads: "The day after the Supreme Court named George W. Bush as the next president, he attended a highly-publicized prayer service. I hope he asked for forgiveness for not wanting to hear the will of all the Florida voters. During the campaign, Bush repeatedly claimed that 'he [Gore] trusts Washington; I trust the people.' Apparently Mr. Bush didn't trust the people enough to allow all the votes to be counted; what a sad time for American democracy. George W. Bush should be embarrassed to take the oath of office." And how was your week? ▼

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Playboy magazine to honor defenders of First Amend.

by Katie Szymanski

Perhaps the name *Playboy* doesn't always conjure up images of seriousness and the fight for justice. Yet every year, the magazine that millions of straight men purchase "for the articles," puts its money where its mouth is and reward those who have championed issues like access to information and freedom of expression, including people who have defended gay and lesbian causes.

Nominees are currently being sought for the 21st annual Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards, an honor that recognizes bravery and perseverance when it comes to protecting and enhancing Americans' rights to know and speak different viewpoints. Since its inception, the awards have honored over 100 individuals, including Nicholas Becker, a student who challenged his high school's student-led prayer during graduation; Michael Moore, for using his cable television show, *The Awful Truth* to educate people about First Amendment issues; Elaine Williamson and Jerry McGiverin, who successfully

challenged Internet filters in Loudon County, Virginia libraries; Dr. Eugenie C. Scott, a defender of teaching scientific evolution on schools; Dr. Frederic Whitehurst, former chemist for the FBI who blew the whistle on misconduct in the crime labs; and Kelli Peterson, the founder of Salt Lake City, Utah's Gay-Straight Alliance, who fought for its right to convene and inspired similar programs in other states.

Winners of the Hugh M. Hefner Award will receive \$5,000 in cash and a specially designed plaque at a ceremony in New York City in April.

The deadline to nominate your favorite constitutional trailblazer is February 5, 2001. Nominees traditionally have come from the areas of journalism, education, publishing, law, government, and entertainment, but anyone who has made a significant contribution to the First Amendment will be considered.

For more information, or to receive an application form, contact the Playboy Foundation, 680 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60611, or call (312) 373-2435. ▼

Thompson

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rights. However, that resume proved to be no liability in knocking off an incumbent to be elected attorney general of Colorado in 1990, and re-elected four years later.

In that position she defended Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 and expressed disappointment when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the amendment unconstitutional in 1996. Her actions were similar to the Clinton administration's vigorous legal defense of the anti-gay military policy "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in numerous court cases.

The *Denver Post* called the nomination "an inspired move." It said that Norton, a former Libertarian, "is a true free market conservative, not an ideological conservative, and has built a strong record of going to bat for the state's environmental needs."

Houston school superintendent Roderick Paige, 67, will be the next secretary of education. In the six years he has headed up the nation's seventh largest school sys-

tem, violence has decreased by 20 percent and its predominantly black and Hispanic students have registered impressive gains on statewide tests. He attributes it to pragmatic innovation and holding people accountable.

Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, said, "We too, want to hold schools accountable — accountable to the notion that all students deserve environments of safety and basic respect."

The January 2 nomination of Linda Chavez, 57, to be labor secretary raised concerns. HRC spokesman David Smith claimed that she frequently has taken anti-gay positions in her syndicated column that appears in the conservative *Washington Times* and other newspapers. They are researching her record and developing a strategy on the nomination.

Tafel said he has not read Chavez's columns closely. He has spoken with gay men who have worked with her, "speak highly of her as a person, and say she is not anti-gay. But that does not necessarily translate into policy." ▼

Ashcroft

◀ page 18

Log Cabin Republicans, echoed those concerns, he is "not terribly excited" by the nomination. He said they made their feelings known to the Bush staff prior to the nomination but do not plan any public opposition. "Each group has their role to play," he said.

"What is really shocking is this camaraderie in the Senate," Tafel said. "As we were lobbying against [former Senator Dan] Coats [mentioned for secretary of defense], people like Joe Lieberman or Olympia Snowe would say, 'Oh, he is a great guy.' So that is going to help Ashcroft a lot."

But Tafel cautioned, "If Ashcroft talks about his religion a lot, that is really going to hurt him, because the Assembly of God is really fundamentalist." He also feels that many of the 20 Republican senators up for re-election in two years "will face a lot of heat" for their votes on nominees.

Former Congressman Steve

Gunderson agreed that Ashcroft's positions on gay issues "sent us a very disturbing signal." While he recognized the need to speak out, Gunderson urged that this be used as an opportunity "to get our friends on the [Judiciary] Committee to see if [Ashcroft] would commit to sit down and meet with our community during the confirmation process, and see if we can begin a dialogue."

Representing a political constituency is very different from going to a national executive level job," said Gunderson, who added that some people are better than others at adapting to those different roles and responsibilities. He thought, "the people around Bush ... will push to see that the enforcement of justice in this country is done in a traditional and proper way."

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* asked in an editorial, "Is John Ashcroft's commitment to equal justice deep enough to qualify him to be the nation's chief legal officer?" From the record they recounted, the answer was no. ▼

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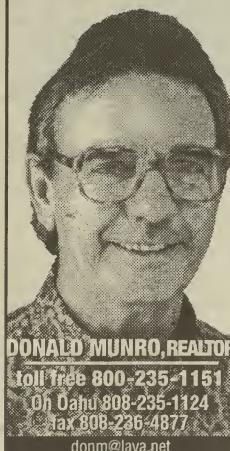
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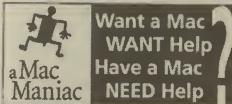
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City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals #195

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies, organizations, or individuals interested in contracting to develop and implement a Cafe Training Project for Foster Care youth at the cafeteria site at 170 Otis. The winning respondent is responsible for the start-up and operation of the training program. The winning respondent's responsibilities include limited involvement with facility planning/site improvements, providing/obtaining necessary equipment, development of the training program curriculum, recruitment of youth, fund development for operations and the actual day-to-day operations of the training program.

The contract will be for the period from 3/1/01 to 6/30/02. The amount of the contract will be negotiated with the winning respondent.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2001. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at 10:00 AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 5PM.

STATEMENT FILE NO.245235

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rob Scott, 1685 Plymouth Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert M. Scott. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names, on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/06/00 DEC. 14, 21, 28, JAN. 4, 2001

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Soma Leadership Council, 366 Tenth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed James E. Meko. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/18/00 DEC. 21, 28, JAN. 4, 11, 2001

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Fiction to begin the new year
National Book Award-winner Ha Jin's
'The Bridegroom'; 'The Abomination.'

page 35

Greek top is released
Katakouzinos' 'Angel' is a
portrait of Athens hustler.

page 45



More male beauty
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page 34



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 1 • 4 January 2001

BAY AREA REPORTER

Save the DJs!

Piki & Poko's wild adventures in Starland



by Mark Mardon

Ruthless candy cane warriors bent on capturing and destroying DJ Aries have invaded Starland, orchestrated in their das- tardly quest by the prim and proper but truly ruthless and fiendish Homemaker, a warlord or general or bossy housewife acting on behalf of some entity named Shaper, who loathes the trustworthy, horoscope-telling DJs that preside over Starland. Homemaker wants her candy cane army to smash the DJs and their celestial powers.

"From their 12 temples, the zodiac DJs broadcast astrological propaganda which they set to catchy jingles," seethes Homemaker in the Mondo Media syndicated online-cartoon ad-

venture *Piki & Poko: Adventures in Starland*, the latest, greatest brainstorm of David Cutler and Mark Ewert, two fixtures in San Francisco's queer countercultural arts scene.

In their script for the Flash-animated *Piki & Poko* series, the duo — well-known in town as psychics, genderfuck artists, literary provocateurs, satirists, Tarot readers, Webcast innovators, film/video makers and showmen — have Homemaker give her soldiers marching orders, her words dripping with venom: "Your first target will be DJ Aries. He claims he preaches self-

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mondo

MTV meets Matthew Shepard

'Anatomy of a Hate Crime'
by Victoria A. Brownworth

MTV starts off the new year January 10 with the premiere of an original film by noted filmmaker Tim Hunter, *Anatomy of a Hate Crime*, about the life and death of Matthew Shepard.

Anatomy begins MTV's year-long "pro-social campaign" called *Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Discrimination*. If the opening gambit is a preview of things to come, the series should be excellent and thought-provoking.

Hunter, best known for his stunning indie film *River's Edge*, about a group of disaffected teens and the murder of one of them, is perfect for this piece, which has the same docu-dramatic feel of *Boys Don't Cry*, the Academy Award-winning film about the murder of Brandon Teena.

Anatomy is framed beginning and end with

clips of memorials to Shepard and protests against him by the likes of Rev. Fred Phelps. The film proper begins with the iconic fence in the golden prairie where Shepard was left hanging for nearly 24 hours to die after incurring 18 skull fractures. Shepard (Cy Carter, who looks remarkably like Shepard) partially narrates the tale from beyond the grave, but the majority of the film is told in flashback sequences setting the stage for the events of the day — October 6, 1998 — Shepard was murdered by Aaron McKinney (Brendan Fletcher) and Russell Henderson (Ian Somerhalder).

Hunter takes the viewer into the lives of each of the major players: Shepard, who had recently moved to Laramie from Denver after a bout with depression; McKinney, whose coke and alcohol addictions were fueled by the untimely death of his mother and frustrations generated by the birth of his son, Cameron, to longtime girlfriend Kristen Price (who would later turn her lover in to police); Henderson, whose prostitute mother is found frozen to death on a road not far from

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Cy Carter plays
Matthew Shepard

Don Powell

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and the Spin Machine

With the holidays now safely behind us, we're down to just the hellish days. We spent a heartwarming Xmas Eve with a band of Palestinian terrorists, as our holiday date P's idea of a festive flick is a documentary about political murder. *One Day in September*, which played last



Libyan terrorist Jamal Al Gashey in *One Day in September*

week at the Lumiere, is in fact a riveting look at the abduction of Israeli athletes by Libyan terrorists at the Munich Olympics 1972.

Depressing fare on cheerful holidays is our way of life. But the film got off to a so-so start with a trailer for the **SF Indie Fest** (coming 1/11-21) starring none other than glam rockers **Blue Period** and their stellar frontman **Adrian Roberts!** The Period let loose with a rousing rendition of



Blue Period's Adrian Roberts in Ggreg Taylor's orange ostrich coat

"We Will Rock You," which explained why Roberts was cranking those **Queen** CDs at the office.

There the BAR art director was, looking vivid in glamorissimo **Ggreg Taylor's** flaming orange ostrich feather coat, trailing a bright blue box in Technicolor brilliance in front of a Balmy Alley mural. All the Day-Glo was enough to give the color-blind a conversion experience.

The Blue Pd. trailer was also spotted at screenings of *Before Night Falls* at the Lumiere, and *State and Main* at the Piedmont in Oakland. We felt it was a fitting apotheosis upon the Silver Screen for us to witness on Xmas Eve, A's birthday after all. A child — and star — is born.

Out There



Borscht Belt by the Bay, clockwise from left, Jewish comics Sara Felder, Jeff Raz, Dan Rothenberg, and Lisa Geduldig

read and critique. Nilson picked up 15 gay men in London during the '80s and brought them home to kill them. Charming and "edgy," that.

Guys and dolls

Last year's trend that needs to be stopped dead in its tracks: creeping product placement. If you think the queer market is immune to this development, *au contraire*. The Mattel doll **Cher** appeared on NBC's *Will & Grace* last fall in a featured appearance, and even OT tumbled for an advance plug.



Sean Hayes on *Will & Grace* with his **Cher** doll

Fresh thought

British bad boy writer **P-P Hartnett** is seeking international submissions for *The Next Wave*, a collection of fiction by gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth aged up to 24 years. "Submissions should be crafted, heartfelt, original writing, set in the year 2001 or slightly beyond, of 1,500-4,000 words in English," and sent to P-P Hartnett c/o *Gay Times*, Worldwide House, 116-134 Bayham Street, London Town NW1 OBA, England. Deadline is Feb. 14, 2001.

"Think new and different," rings P-P's appeal. "Please, no tired formula stuff."

A warning to the uninitiated: Hartnett's boundaries are far afield. He courted controversy when, in the writing of his sexy and dangerous first novel *Call Me*, he called upon imprisoned British gay serial killer **Dennis Nilson** for a



British writer P-P Hartnett

"We're getting to the point of one long, seamless commercial with a few scattered scenes in between," said **Gary Ruskin**, director of Commercial Alert, to the *New York Times*. The Washington, DC organization fights the relentless commercialization of culture.

Memo to *The Advocate* flaks promoting the factoid that they have the first gay press interview with **Barbra Streisand's** gay son, filmmaker **Jason Gould**: Sorry, babes, it just ain't so. Out There readers know we did it here, first and better.

Of course, given that the *Advocate's* true exclusives are usually embarrassing suck-ups (Example #1: the butt-kissing **Clinton** interview; Example #2: the love-fest with Jason's well-manicured mom Babs), perhaps it's better if the celebs spread the love around to various outlets first.

Norse code

OT received this missive from SF gay poet **Harold Norse**:

"[Composer/diary] **Ned Rorem's** photo in the BAR (12/14/00), grotesquely coy and kittenish for someone pushing 80, is pathetic. OT quotes a whopper from Ned's new diary aptly called *Lies*: 'Reading galleys of Harold Norse's silly memoir called *Bastard Angel*... with all its boasting of famous people he's refused to put out for... This book can be read with one hand on the TV remote control.' A year later, 1989, he wrote a blurb: 'I was both charmed and saddened by Harold Norse's crucial evocation of a vast yet specialized era which has now vanished forever.' This appeared in a *Christopher Street* ad with blurbs for my memoirs by [authors] **William Burroughs** and **Armistead Maupin**. **James Baldwin** and **Anais Nin** also wrote glowing blurbs for my book, which was on the *Christopher Street* Bestseller List and nominated for the Lambda Book Award. Ned's blurb wasn't used. He not only looks silly now, he acts it out. By the way, I wasn't a social climber. They climbed all over me. The Memoirs will be republished next year."

Despite all intentions to the contrary, OT has apparently become a forum for aging homosexuals to settle old scores. The original charge included name-dropping, and we'll let the response speak for itself. ▼

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From Canada with talent

Lee MacDougall's parental profile in 'Mamma Mia!'

by Richard Dodds

In Lee MacDougall's hometown, you played hockey—or else. For MacDougall, one of the stars of *Mamma Mia!* at the Orpheum Theatre, "or else" meant learning to be quick with his mouth and fast on his feet.

"I talked my way out of a lot of fights," MacDougall said before a weekday matinee of the ABBA musical in which he plays the gay dad. "But, boy, it was a tough place to grow up, that's for sure. You learned how to stand up for yourself, or at least to run away artfully."

Besides not playing hockey, MacDougall's big crime in Kirkland Lake, a small mining town 400 miles north of Toronto, was that he was a singer. "I was one of those kids who sang at the Kiwanis festivals and school choirs, and was called a fag my whole life," he said. "I was very excited to get to Toronto."

For the 17-year-old MacDougall, Toronto was a wonderland of bright lights, busy streets, and most importantly, glorious anonymity.

"When you start to realize that your gayness is not going to be allowed to flourish, the idea of the big city certainly does become a mecca," he said. "So I couldn't wait to get out of town so I could free what I knew was going on inside me, someplace where no one knew me. In Kirkland Lake, you knew everyone."

MacDougall arrived at the University of Toronto to study microbiology, with the notion of eventually becoming a doctor. "I finished my degree, but had no idea what I was going to do," he said. "For a lark, I thought I'd go to a theater school, and as soon as I got in, I realized that this is what I should have done in the first place."

His parents, who still live in Kirkland Lake, had mixed feelings that their son was not going to be a doctor. His mother encouraged him to follow his dreams, but his father was upset when he changed career paths.

"Once I started to get work and invited them to come to see it, and as the work got better and better and the theaters nicer and nicer, both of them really came on board," he said.

One of those nicer theaters is the Stratford Festival near Toronto, where MacDougall has played dozens of roles. "I was quite amazed when I got to Stratford in 1986 that there were senior gay members of the acting company, on the staff, on the crew — gay and lesbian members who were not discriminated against at all. It was a situation that led me to believe there was no reason to hide it."

Write stuff

MacDougall, 43, has been a working actor for nearly 20 years, but *Mamma Mia!* is his first big commercial project, and his first chance to theatrically tour the United States. It came after a two-year hiatus from acting as MacDougall saw his first effort as a playwright, a comic tragedy about four morphine addicts titled *High Life*, find success in New York, London, and across Canada.

"Now I'm working on two screenplays, another play, and another in the works, so I have four

things going and it made no sense at all to take on *Mamma Mia!*, and I thought, you know what, that's all the more reason to do it." The mostly Canadian company of the London hit opened earlier this year in Toronto, and San Francisco is the first stop on a year-long tour of the states.

In *Mamma Mia!*, MacDougall plays an uptight British bank employee who had a bit of a wild past, including a fling with a woman 20 years before that may have produced the daughter now ready for marriage. Two other men also fit the parental profile, and unbeknownst to her mother, the young woman has invited these former beaus to her wedding on a Greek island.

The story by Catherine Johnson finds all sorts of ways to weave in two dozen ABBA songs, and the show ends with a mini-concert with all the principals donning the over-the-top costumes that the Swedish quartet so famously wore in the 1970s. It's a finale that guarantees a happy crowd.

"We had people waltzing in the aisles the other day," MacDougall said. "We're used to seeing people dancing in the aisles, but these people were actually waltzing."

The show is definitely gay friendly, MacDougall said, even if the main story line is about heterosexual unions past and present. "The writer has painted a non-stereotypical portrait of a gay man," MacDougall said of his character, "and there are some lovely lines written by her, like, 'There are all kinds of families, aren't there?'" Also, the ABBA music is very gay friendly, very campy."

And then there is the matter of all those hunky chorus boys who get plenty of opportunities to reveal the fruits of their hours at the gym.

"The designer, Mark Thompson, makes a point of objectifying the men as opposed to the women," MacDougall said, "which I think is great, because in 90 per-

cent of musical theater it's the women you see in these skimpy costumes. It's really nice to see all those beautiful young men in not a lot of clothing."

It must all seem like a long way from Kirkland Lake. "This is a big adventure for all of us," MacDougall said, "the excitement of having the audiences respond the way they do and starting our tour in such a beautiful city. We're having a ball."

MacDougall's partner of 11 years remains in Canada, working as a director and choreographer in regional theater. "Right now he's in Winnipeg, choreographing a production of *Camelot*, and it's 30 below there," MacDougall said. "Do I have to tell you how happy I am to be in San Francisco?" ▼

Mamma Mia! has been extended at the Orpheum Theatre through Feb. 17. Tickets are \$33-\$75. Call 551-2020.



Lee MacDougall in *Mamma Mia!* Joan Marcus

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Barbara Cook rings in the new year

'Mostly Sondheim' at the Geary Theatre

by Richard Dodds

At 73, Barbara Cook is candidly aware of what her voice can and cannot do.

"As I've gotten older," she said a few days before her end-of-year concerts at the Geary Theatre, "my voice has gotten darker and, I hope, richer. I still have some high notes, but I don't have that high, light kind of voice that I used to have."

And so, darkness and richness were in exquisite abundance, and the high notes were carefully marshaled in a beguiling repertoire titled *Mostly Sondheim*.

One of those high notes was saved for the soaring climax of "Ice Cream," the blossoming-of-love song from Cook's 1963 musical *She Loves Me*, and she nailed it with determined gusto.

"I have to concentrate more for those notes," she told the audience at Saturday's performance. "They used to just pop out." Now she imagines it's her friend, opera star Kiri Te Kanawa, going for the gold. "I let Kiri do the work," Cook said.

Cook was in a friendly, informal mode. Dressed down in a rather unflattering pants suit, she chatted easily with audience, offering commentary, insights, and a self-deprecating sense of humor. She looked like "soprano road kill," she joked, in an unflattering photo in *The New York Times*.

But the informality did not extend to her interpretation of 20 or so songs. Each was a jewel of lyrical interpretation that held the mostly older, mostly male audience in rapt attention. The vocal power that once had her belting out "Carolina in the Morning" at Carnegie Hall has diminished, but in its stead is an emotional complexity that tugs at the heart of a song. Tears flowed from Cook during "Losing My Mind" from *Follies*, and there were more than a few wet eyes in the audience.

Cook and her longtime musical director Wally Harper (at the piano at the Geary) have developed a finely tuned ear for songs with which she can connect. There were no throwaways amid the mix of familiar and obscure compositions that mostly were written for Broadway musicals.

Wish list

While Cook and Harper chose the songs that made up the Sondheim part of the program, they got a little help from Sondheim himself for the other selections. On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Sondheim provided a list of songs that he wished he had written, a collection of both anticipable classics and unexpected popular songs, and Cook and Harper went to work extracting their own choices from the lengthy list.

It's a bit of an arbitrary device that worked best when Cook could offer a few words of expla-

nation behind Sondheim's admiration for the various selections. The evening actually could have been titled *Mostly Sondheim and Arlen*, for composer Harold Arlen was given ample representation. Intriguingly, the Arlen songs weren't his biggest hits (no "Over the Rainbow" and "Come Rain or Come Shine," for example), but overlooked gems like the haunting "I Wonder What Became of Me," with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, and "Buds Won't Bud," a cheery ditty with clever lyrics by E.Y. Harburg.

For those who find comfort in the familiar, Cook also offered the Sondheim-endorsed "Hard-Hearted Hannah," "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee," "The Trolley Song," and "San Francisco." "I get nervous when I sing that song here," she said of the Bay City anthem. "I figure better do it good."

Cook's Sondheim selections also offered idiosyncratic choices — no "Send in the Clowns" here. Instead, there was a medley of the achingly ironic love songs "Happiness" and "Loving You" from *Passion*, and "You Could Drive a Person Crazy" from *Company* (with new lyrics that excised "fag" in favor of "gay"). Unannounced guest Malcolm Gets joined Cook in a wonderful duet of the seldom heard "Move On" from *Sunday in the Park with George*.

Gets, best known for his role as the uptight Richard on television's *Caroline in the City*, is an ACT alumnus, having appeared at the



An American musical treasure: Barbara Cook

Geary last year in *Edward II*. "I promise I'll keep my clothes on tonight," he said, referring to the unadorned nudity featured in the Marlowe play.

Looking lean and relaxed, Gets offered a respectable legit voice on "Another Hundred People" from *Company*, and "So Many People" from the early Sondheim musical *Saturday Night*. In a medley of "Something's Coming" and "Tonight" from *West Side Story*, he effectively wove in dialogue from

Romeo and Juliet as spoken counterpoint.

Gets didn't overstay his welcome, soon giving the stage back to Cook, who closed the show with an unamplified rendering of "Anyone Can Whistle." The first notes were actually thrilling, so novel is the notion of hearing a wondrous human voice free of all electronic embellishment. But unplugged or not, Barbara Cook remains an American musical treasure. ▼

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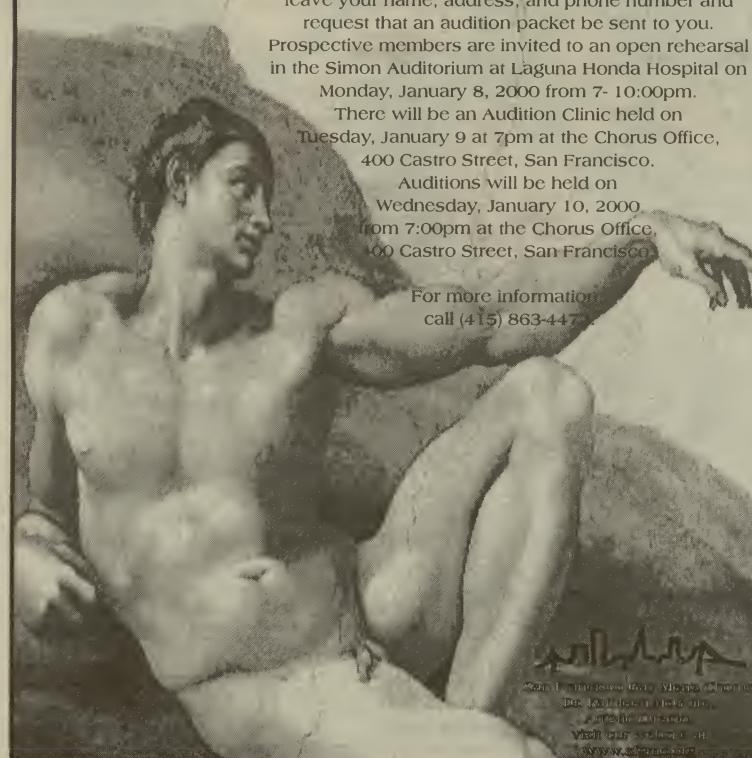
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Curtain up on original casts

by Gregg Shapiro

It's the lack of new musicals of worth or the use of CD technology that has brought about the current glut of expanded editions of original cast recordings? Whatever the case, certainly there's an audience out there for at least some of these compact discs. Until the cast recordings of *The Full Monty* and *The Rocky Horror Show* revival become available, we'll make do with these.

It was only a couple of years ago that there was a revival of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* playing on Broadway, with such stellar cast members as Anthony Rapp, Kristin Chenoweth and B. D. Wong. The original production of the musical which brought the characters from the late Charles M. Schulz's comic strip to life, with music and lyrics by Clark Gesner, premiered in 1967. Gary Burghoff (of *M*A*S*H* fame) played a convincing Charlie Brown in the production, and earned our sympathy in songs like "Kite" and "Dr. Lucy," a duet with Reva Rose as Lucy. Four previously unreleased tracks on the *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Decca Broadway) reissue feature Gesner and Barbara Minkus performing songs from the musical.

There was something kind of un-hip about a musical about the Peanuts cartoon characters, especially premiering as it did around

the time of the Summer of Love and *Hair*, and yet it worked. Another example of "un-hipness" that worked is *Bye Bye Birdie* (Sony Classical/Columbia/Legacy), celebrated in an expanded version. What did Broadway know from rock 'n' roll in 1960? Not much, which is why this musical about the impact of rock 'n' roll doesn't really rock or roll. Just listen to "Honesty Sincere," the big number by the Elvis-like Conrad Birdie (Dick Gautier), to see what I mean. Still, songs such as "The Telephone Hour" and snappy numbers such as "Put On a Happy Face" and "A Lot of Livin' To Do" manage to capture the sound of the period. Besides, listening to Paul Lynde sing "Kids" is still a joy.

Just a few years after *Charlie Brown* and *Hair*, "rock" musicals were becoming somewhat more common on Broadway. The enhanced original cast album for *Pippin* (Decca Broadway) is a good example. Stephen Schwartz was in his early 20s when he created both *Pippin* and *Godspell*, and therefore somewhat more in tune with the music of the day. Schwartz was especially adept at writing enduring power ballads such as "Corner of the Sky" and uplifting pop songs such as "Morning Glow," "Magic To Do" and "No Time at All."

Songs from the musical were covered by Motown artists such as The Supremes ("I Guess I'll Miss

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Audrey Hepburn, the fairest lady

Plays the Castro Theatre on Sunday

by Tavo Amador

Audrey Hepburn, the tall, thin daughter of a Dutch baroness and an English banker, became a star in an age of voluptuous pin-ups, most of whom, insisted Billy Wilder, resembled drive-in waitresses. Whether gowned by Givenchy or wearing jeans, she epitomized chic. Women — and many men — copied her style, but none matched her elegance. Breathtakingly beautiful, a dazzling comedienne, she was the supreme romantic actress of the '50s and '60s, and she can be seen in *My Fair Lady* (1964), playing the Castro Theatre on Sunday, January 7.

Born Audrey von Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston in Brussels in 1929, at five she was sent to boarding school in England. Her father abandoned the family in 1935, scarring Hepburn for life. With World War II approaching, her mother sought safety with family in Arnhem, Holland, a major miscalculation. When Nazis overran the country in 1940, young Audrey helped the Resistance, witnessed an uncle's execution by firing squad, suffered hunger, but studied ballet. In 1948, local filmmakers cast her as a stewardess in *Dutch in Seven Lessons*. That year, she and mother returned to London. She won a ballet scholarship and modeled to earn money.

At five seven, she was too tall for ballet but perfect for the London chorus of *High Button Shoes*. In 1949-1950, she scored in two revues, *Sauce Tartare* and *Sauce Picante*. By 1951, she had landed bits in *Laughter in Paradise*, *One Wild Oat*, *The Lavender Hill Mob* (speaking to Alec Guinness at the end), and better roles in *Young Wives' Tale* and *The Secret People*. Mervyn Le Roy tested her for *Quo Vadis*, but MGM declined. She became a *Monte Carlo Baby*, and while on location was spotted by Colette, who declared her the perfect *Gigi*. She opened in a non-musical adaptation of the novel in New York in 1951, getting good notices, although the play was panned.

William Wyler had also tested her in London, and Paramount signed her. When Jean Simmons couldn't take a *Roman Holiday* (1953), Wyler insisted on Hepburn. Teamed with Gregory Peck, she played a princess posing as a commoner and falling in love. Critics and public were enchanted. She won the Best Actress Oscar, and, having returned to Broadway to co-star with fiancé Mel Ferrer in *Giraudoux's Ondine*, collected the Tony a few days later. Wilder named her *Sabrina* (1954) with Humphrey Bogart and William Holden. (Bogart remained mystified, complaining about her constant re-takes.) She earned a second Academy Award nomination, but lost to Grace Kelly's *The Country Girl*.

Funny failure

Now married to Ferrer, she starred with him and Henry Fonda in King Vidor's *War and Peace* (1956), a big hit. Her Natasha was well-regarded, although the film was one-dimensional. Tolstoy. Stanley Donen called her *Funny Face* (1957), and Fred Astaire agreed to film at Paramount to dance with her. She was exquisite, the movie charming, highlighted by Paris locations,

Gershwin songs, Givenchy gowns, and Kay Thompson's Diana Vreeland-like turn — but *Funny Face* was a commercial failure. Gary Cooper was her next older co-star in Wilder's Paris-set *Love in the Afternoon* (1957). She was splendid, but he seemed uncomfortable as the aging Lothario. It flopped. She and Ferrer visited *Mayerling* on television, neither a critical nor ratings success.

But Fred Zinnemann's *The Nun's*

earning her last Oscar nod, but lost to Katherine Hepburn in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, then retired.

She divorced Ferrer in 1968 (one son, Sean), married Italian psychiatrist/neurologist Andrea Dotti, and in 1970 gave birth to son Luca. Richard Lester lured her back for *Robin and Marian* (1976). She hated its rapid shooting pace. The movie was not the anticipated success, although she

Truman Capote had wanted Marilyn Monroe as Holly Golightly eating 'Breakfast at Tiffany's.' He complained that Hepburn sanitized his creation.

Story (1959) created a sensation. Hepburn's performance as a postulant who enters then leaves the order was magnificent, winning spectacular notices. Her innate grace, dignity, and courage blended seamlessly with the character. She won the New York Film Critics Best Actress Award and another Oscar nomination, losing to Simone Signoret in *Room At the Top*. But Ferrer's directing her as Rima the Bird Girl in *Green Mansions* pleased neither critics nor public. Sadly, she rejected George Stevens' *The Diary of Anne Frank* because of similarities to her childhood.

She agreed to John Huston's offbeat Western *The Unforgiven* (1960) with Burt Lancaster. Reviews were poor, but today it looks fine. In 1961, she triumphed as Holly Golightly eating *Breakfast at Tiffany's* for Blake Edwards. Author Truman Capote had wanted Marilyn Monroe and complained that Hepburn sanitized his creation. Still, she earned another Oscar nod, losing to Sophia Loren in *Two Women*.

For Wyler she did the more faithful remake of Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* (1961). Shirley MacLaine played the latent lesbian. Most critics carped, and the film flopped, but today it's a classic. Hepburn was seldom better — heartbreaking in her final, silent scene. For Donen she joined Cary Grant in Paris for *Charade* (1963), a stylish and hugely successful thriller. Her re-teaming with Holden in *Paris When It Sizzles* (1963) fizzled.

A cool million

Warners paid her one million dollars for *My Fair Lady* — the second modern-day star to earn that sum for one picture. (Elizabeth Taylor got it first.) George Cukor directed, slowly, and, to Hepburn's disappointment, dubbed her songs. The film was a smash, winning Best Picture, Actor (Rex Harrison), Director, and five other Oscars, but she hadn't been nominated. If not quite believable as a guttersnipe, she was incomparable as the elegant lady. (That year's Best Actress was the original Eliza, Julie Andrews, in *Mary Poppins*, a situation Hepburn handled gracefully.)

Back in Paris, she enchanted Peter O'Toole in Wyler's hilarious *How To Steal a Million* (1966). When Donen exploited her romantic vulnerability in 1967's *Two for the Road*, critics exhausted superlatives. That same year she did a smash thriller, *Wait Until Dark*,



'Not quite believable as the guttersnipe in *My Fair Lady*': Hepburn

Divorced from Dotti in 1980, she devoted herself to UNICEF, raising enormous sums for starving children. She appeared on televised tributes to colleagues or to present an Oscar, inevitably el-

egant. Early in 1993, she and Elizabeth Taylor were named winners of the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Academy Award. Stricken with colon cancer, Hepburn, not yet 64, died before the Oscar ceremony. A

genuinely glamorous woman, she possessed as much substance as style. In the American Film Institute's Greatest Screen Legends List, she finished third.

We won't see her likes again. ▼

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One of the 'flushed Euro-decadent fantasy tableau' in Richard de Chazal's *Erotika 2001*.Two guys playing tongue hockey in *Absolute Makos*.

Cheap but sumptuous

Best of the inexpensive photobooks

by John F. Karr

Here's some books of fine art male photography that are more reasonably priced than those recently reviewed.

Absolute Makos (Bruno Gmunder, \$17.95) collects approximately 60 duotone photographs by Christopher Makos, and amply demonstrates the artist's appealing commercial work. It has what Bruce Weber, "conversing" briefly with Makos in the book, calls "that naive kind of quality about showing how much you feel about the person in the pictures." Their casual charm is the best quality of Makos' photographs. Although Makos glorifies in today's physical culture, he's not an iconographer, and his 20ish boys — and their sexuality — always seem within our reach. In this small hardbound volume, Makos offers close-ups of some

sweet body parts, and some even sweeter faces. Makos shares Weber's calm tonal palate, and (unfortunately) some of his sugary taste — if I see another picture of a cuddly dog on the page facing a cuddly boy, I'll take up tattling. But Makos is always personally engaged with each model, and his work is endearing.

Reed Massengill's third collection is his first to document a single model. **Brian** (FotoFactory Press, cloth, \$30) is subtitled *A Nine Year Photographic Diary*, and is an amazing document of one boy's journey from a tousle-haired Caravaggio to a shaved, pierced and tattooed urban warrior. More than a tribute to Brian's considerable physical beauty, however, the book also reveals his evolution as a person, as well as the evolution of his relationship to his photographer — who is seen, in the last photo, hugging him tenderly.

While the body modifications

that Brian pursues over nine years are eye-opening, they never become distressing, for the young man's introspective nature suffuses and softens his portraits. This young straight boy has shared everything with his photographer — his erections and his scarification — but most of all, his quiet trust and tenderness. You can love a boy for that, and Massengill lets us do just that.

Sand shots

A polar opposite is **Beach** by David Morgan (St. Martin's Press, cloth, \$29.95). Despite the trademark humpiness of Morgan's models, whose calves and buns bulge alluringly from their tight white shorts as they cavort, cook, hug and (temperately) couple on a white sand beach, Morgan's work is strangely impersonal. There are 118 black-and-white images in the book, but only a few have the energy and arresting personality of

Morgan's famous poster shots. Although I'd been looking forward to a collection of Morgan's work, the cumulative effect hasn't worked to his benefit.

Klaus Gerhart, on the other hand, continues to impress in his new collection, **Body Conscious** (Pohiman Press, cloth, \$49.95). Although he routinely presents men of only the most singular musculature, skin, and facial features, the majority of Gerhart's work successfully captures a man's emotions and ideas. We believe the photographer when he says, "I am not simply photographing bodies; I am photographing men." And these are emphatically men, not boys. There's a graceful flow to Gerhart's nudes, and he's neither afraid of nor ensnared by the occasional hard-on. He knows a cock can be as beautiful as a face, and delivers some mellow rhapsodies on the subject, in fine art work whose sharper focus and less diffused lighting, this time around, heighten the photographs' impact.

And now let's turn to one of my favorite photographic subcategories: hard-on calendars. How many do you need to get through the year? Whole months can go by

while my consciousness is clouded by a single photo, so I need several. But I've narrowed my choice down to two favorites, both from Soho Galleries (\$13.50) and presenting some lush photography. The first is **Rage-On 2001**, in which the crisply printed sepia-toned plates by Henning Von Berg include three portraits of the colossus of Spike, and four luscious shots of a typically dimpled, sparkling Nino Bacci.

In another vein altogether is **Erotika 2001**, a reprise by Richard de Chazal of the swank carnality in soft-focus, golden-hued photographs he debuted so tastily last year. At a midnight rendezvous in a richly appointed Parisian *pied-à-terre*, some glamorous men with faces, cocks and bodies of provocative yet deliberately cool beauty are aroused and arrayed in flushed Euro-decadent fantasy tableau. Top hat and tails mingle with nudity and hints of fetish fashion to set off erections of striking quality. Chazal's is a unique world where hedonism has a felicitous calm, and masculinity breathes a refined elegance. It's eroticism with sumptuous class. ▼

'A tousle-haired Caravaggio': Reed Massengill's *Brian*

Christopher Makos

Reed Massengill

Gayness as a Western disease

Ha Jin's story of gays in China, 'The Bridegroom'

by Wen Huang

The Bridegroom, Stories by Ha Jin; Pantheon Books, \$22

Chinese pop singer Ning Mao, a hot teenage icon, has grabbed the national headlines recently, upon being stabbed by a hustler during a quarrel in a well-known gay cruising spot in Beijing. The Chinese government-controlled media tried to use the incident to focus on how to improve the deteriorating social order. But in the relatively free world of the Internet, millions of Chinese web-surfers were able to access online coverage, from Hong Kong and overseas papers, of Mao's confirmed homosexuality, as well as of the flourishing gay subculture in China's capital.

In a country where the government used to deny the existence of homosexuals, in a society ruled by the draconian Communist Party ideology and repressive feudalistic traditions, this high-profile case has catapulted the once-taboo issue of homosexuality into the open.

For many years, homosexuality has been considered a Western disease, and gays and lesbians have been treated as moribund hooligans. According to one Chinese college textbook on American society, homosexuality is described as "a rather strange social phenomenon."

"One reason for this may be the despair in marriage or love affairs," according to the textbook. "Some people fail in marriage and

become disappointed with it. So they decide no longer to love the opposite sex, but instead begin to love a person of the same sex as a return of hatred to the opposite. Another reason may be that some people just want to find and do something new and curious, as the Americans are known as adventurous. So they practice homosexuality as a kind of new excitement. Through this, we can see clearly the spiritual hollowness of these people, and the distortion of the social order."

In contrast, Ha Jin, last year's National Book Award winner, has captured a rare glimpse of gay life in China under such harsh conditions in his short story "The Bridegroom." "Bridegroom" is the title story in Ha Jin's first collection of short fiction since his award-winning novel *Waiting*.

Secret society

The story centers on Huang Baowen, a newly married factory worker who is arrested for joining a secret gay association, "Men's World." According to a Chinese security officer, "People of the same sex having a sexual relationship is a social disease, like gambling or prostitution or syphilis. Homosexuality is originated in Western capitalism and is a bourgeois lifestyle."

Baowen and other members of "Men's World" are liable to six months to five years' imprisonment for committing what the security officer categorizes as "hooliganism."

Since Baowen has been a model worker and a "good, considerate husband," the bride's

guardian uses his power and connections to bail the bridegroom out of jail. However, as a condition of his release, Baowen has to be put in a mental hospital for treatment. In an attempt to cure Baowen of his homo "illness," the doctor is forced to prescribe "electrotherapy," a standard treatment required by China's Department of Health, even though he secretly believes that "homosexuality is only a sexual preference, or something congenital, like being left-handed." Instead of being cured, the irony of the story is that Baowen finds love in the hospital. He ends up in jail for having sex with a male nurse.

Through the eyes of the narrator, the bride's guardian, Jin paints a miniature portrait of daily struggles of gay life in China. Growing up in Mao's Communist China, Baowen shares the universal experiences of gays and lesbians who struggle with their sexuality. "I thought I was a sick man. I tried everything to cure myself. I took a lot of herbs, and even ate baked scorpions, lizards and toads. Still, I'm fond of men." To cover up his homosexuality, Baowen follows the common path of thousands of gay men in China and marries a woman so he can conform to social norms.

During the past 10 years, as China has moved toward a more open society, more gays are coming out of the closet. Gay bars and clubs have emerged in major cities, and gay subculture has flourished. The forming of the "Men's World" salon in the story reflects such a social trend. These open and secret venues have of

fered gays like Baowen a temporary haven, where he feels "alive and liberated: 'Only in here can I stop living in hypocrisy!'"

The 12 stories in Ha Jin's *The Bridegroom* depict the collision between the rigid, dogmatic, totalitarian Communist society and the freewheeling, capitalistic Western culture. Caught in the shifting sands of China's transition, his characters are unsettled and bewildered as they struggle to adapt to the changing political and economic landscape. Jin's writing is not flashy, but his choice of words is precise. The stories possess the simplicity that one finds in the writings of Ernest Hemingway, and their endings offer the same type of surprises that are common in the short stories of O'Henry.

Jin, 44, was born in China and moved to the United States to pursue his graduate studies at Brandeis University in 1985. He vaulted from anonymity to win the National Book Award and the Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction



for his 1999 novel *Waiting*.

Before *Waiting*, Jin had also authored two short story collections, *Ocean of Words* (1996), winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award, and *Under the Red Flag* (1997), winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award, as well as two books of poetry, *Between Silences* (1990) and *Facing Shadows*. It was *Waiting* that secured him a place in the émigré-American literary pantheon with writers like Nabokov and Isaac Bashevis Singer. ▀

The art of survival

by Robert Julian

The Abomination by Paul Golding; Knopf, \$26

In the first of *The Abomination*'s five sections, author Paul Golding introduces his protagonist, a young gay man of Spanish/English descent named James Moore. Living in London, James prowls late-night pick-up venues unsuccessfully and decides to hire a hustler from the pages of a gay publication. The first 40 pages detail, exhaustively, his insecurities and compulsions. It's hard to figure out just where this is headed, or whether it's worth the effort, until the second section of the book begins.

The second through fourth segments of the book deal with James' childhood on a small Spanish island in the 1960s, his departure for English boarding school at the age of six, and his journey through the English public school system until graduation. In these sections, Golding's prose is so spectacular, and his perceptions so keen, that they transcend almost everything previously written in the vein of coming-of-age stories set in English boarding schools. The middle three-fifths of this novel is both brilliant and disturbing.

Young James, who was called Santiago until his sixth birthday, is socially ostracized from his first day at school. His English is poor, and he is not traditionally masculi-



Paul Golding

line. James is constantly tormented by his peers and essentially abandoned by his wealthy parents. His mother is an exotic Spanish beauty, dominated by her pedantic, conservative British husband, who wants her to remain an exquisite partner for social engagements and formal entertaining at home. James' father, a graduate of the same schools James is to attend, plans to toughen his son and make him into a proper English gentleman.

Young James is, indeed, toughened — but his resilience is achieved at the cost of alienation. His abuse by his schoolmates is compounded by his molestation at the age of nine by Mr. Wolfe, one of his teachers. They begin a sexual liaison that continues through graduation. And when James reports to his next school at

the age of 15, he is quickly molested by the school music teacher, who continues to abuse him for most of his years at the second school. These pivotal relationships with the older teachers are James' curse and his salvation. Although they make his daily life even more complicated and intolerable, they also provide a place of refuge for a young gay boy.

The final section of the book returns to the present, where James once again attempts to connect with the hustler introduced in the book's first section. This final section, although abundant in detail, is less insightful than the sections dealing with childhood — as if the author could trace how James came to be what he is, but is unable to communicate an in-depth understanding of what that might be.

Although technically a first novel, *The Abomination*, like most first novels, is probably autobiographical. The book jacket contains a photo of the author and no personal information about him whatsoever, except his city of residence: London. The title references the chapter of Leviticus that describes sexual acts between two men as an "abomination," but young James' fate at the hands of others — those who allegedly love him — is the real abomination. Whatever the genesis of Golding's material, his work as a writer is spectacular, and *The Abomination* will be of interest to any gay man who came of age in the latter half of the 20th century. ▀

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The tube in review

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It was the best TV, and it was the worst TV. Despite a year of hype, the new millennium brought no Y2K end-times drama — the Earth didn't go dark, and humankind didn't revert to a primitive state (except on *Survivor* and in Washington). What 2000 did bring was unprecedented political drama at home and abroad, much of which was viewed through the prism of TV.

TV bore witness to terrorism in the Middle East — the bombing of the USS Cole, and attacks on Palestinians and Israelis by Israelis and Palestinians, including the murders of Jewish and Arab children by Palestinian and Israeli adults. We also viewed the carnage wrought by civil war in Sierra Leone and funded by the diamond trade. That horror was juxtaposed with the thrilling exposition of democracy in Yugoslavia as citizens stormed Parliament in Belgrade and reclaimed their government.

vote by one Supreme Court Justice that overrode hundreds of thousands of votes throughout the nation. For weeks, Americans were able to view democracy in action — flawed, foiled and frustrating.

National and international politics certainly provided the most memorable TV moments, if not the best TV, in 2000. The best political commentary came from PBS and CNN, the most biased from ABC, the most lackadaisical from CBS, the most consistent from NBC. Fox, at whose feet will always be laid the blame for that first misstatement about the Florida vote, remains TV's news pariah.

The best debate was the vice-presidential, presided over by the sharp and lively Bernard Shaw. The worst debate was the first presidential natter presided over by the somnolent Jim Lehrer, who remained a terrible moderator for each successive challenge.

Beyond politics, reality TV was the big ticket item for 2000 — CBS's *Survivor* was a runaway hit, addicting millions with the exciting, back-biting, nail-biting, rat-eating, larvae-munching island drama. CBS's *Big Brother* addicted as many viewers to its creepy, peeping-Tom 24-7 view of ten tedious people trying to out-dumb each other. *Survivor* was unquestionably the best guilty-pleasure TV show of 2000. Winner Rich Hatch ("fat naked fag") was the best new queer TV star. (CBS also provided the year's worst queer star: Bette Midler transformed into a caricature of herself in the tortured sitcom *Bette*. Call this one *bette noir*.)

Gloves off

Another reality TV series, ABC's *Hopkins 24/7*, provided a remarkable inside look at the workings of a major urban hospital, Baltimore's renowned Johns Hopkins. Spotlighting a range of doctors and surgeons, 24/7 took the surgical gloves off to show just how torturous doctoring can be in urban America. Brilliantly edited,

this provocative series will be rerun soon.

Another best of 2000 also comes from ABC. Hospital drama *Gideon's Crossing* stars Andre Braugher, one of the best actors on TV, and a fabulous supporting cast including Ruben Blades. Call this the thinking person's *ER*.

We also laud NBC for *The West Wing*, with arguably the best TV cast since *NYPD Blue* and possibly even better dialogue. The rapid-fire timing of the near-perfect political repartee puts *WW* in a class by itself. Stars Rob Lowe, Martin Sheen, Alison Janney, Stockard Channing, John Spencer and others give seamless performances. If you haven't seen it, watch. A+.

Other A+ political commentary comes from ABC's *Politically Incorrect*. The often annoying and always controversial Bill Maher takes on what the other talk shows fear — racism, sexism, real politik, and so forth. It's also the best forum for seeing which celebrities are smart and which are dumb as posts, which are politically correct and which play militia or sew up KKK outfits on the weekend. Always smart, never snoozy, despite its late hour.

Speaking of smart and savvy, the best new sci-fi adventure series comes from Fox. James Cameron's *Dark Angel* didn't take long to become a cult favorite. With a queerish cast that includes the black retro dyke Original Cindy and bisexual star Max (the incredibly fetching leather-clad superhuman Jessica Alba), this is one to watch.

Despite the hype, Fox's *Normal, Ohio*, starring John Goodman as a big fat queen, and Showtime's *Queer as Folk* are dud TV. We rate them the two worst new queer shows ever. While few will disagree about *Normal*, we can hear the shrieks of outraged queens over *QAF*. To which we say: If you want to watch porn, watch real porn. If you want to watch unrealistic soap opera relationships, watch *Titans* — it's much more fun. We think *QAF* next page ►



Storming Parliament in Belgrade.

S&M amateurs



Oh, those wacky Koreans. *Lies*, which opens Friday at the Lumiere, tells the story of Y (Kim Tae Yeon), an 18-year-old high school student who wants to lose her virginity, and J (Lee Sang Hyun), a 38-year-old married man, who take a sexual trip to obsession and sadomasochism. The film was adapted from a novel banned in Korea, whose author served jailtime for obscenity.

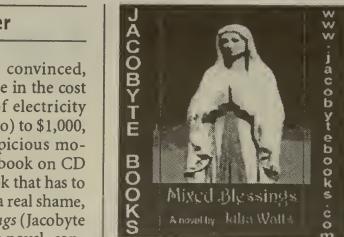
Director Jang Sun Woo says, "When I read the novel, I was shocked by how few of the sexual episodes described things I'd tried myself. When we were in Paris for the location shoot, I went to see a professional S&M show, which gave me greater confidence in what we were doing ourselves." ▼

Plugging in to a knockout novel

by Deborah Peifer

I am not utterly convinced, given the increase in the cost of a megawatt of electricity from \$45 (one year ago) to \$1,000, that is the most auspicious moment to introduce a book on CD — that is to say, a book that has to be plugged in. That's a real shame, because *Mixed Blessings* (Jacobyte Books) is a knockout novel, containing some of Julia Watts' best writing and plotting to date, and that's saying something. Watts is the author of such stellar novels as *Phases of the Moon* and *Piece of My Heart* (both Naiad, \$11.95), and in her latest, she expands her repertoire of characters, creating an extraordinary world that is fascinating, fun, and very moving.

Mixed Blessings is divided into three parts, each with its own first person narrator. Their individual stories are connected by what seems to be a miracle in the small town of Morgan, Kentucky. The statue of the Virgin Mary that sits in front of the town's only Catholic church is seen shedding tears, and the townspeople are thrown into a state of mixed religious fervor and outrage. Mayjune, the first narrator, is a woman who has settled for stability when the wild man she loved dumps her,



Book Report

after learning she is pregnant with his child. Emily is a high school student who wants to be mad and bohemian, but can't help being smart and studious. Dominic is a gay man who has returned to his small hometown to care for his ailing mother, and to mourn for his dead lover. Each narrator is a completely distinct and interesting character, and the ways in which their lives intersect are always entertaining, always compelling.

Watts is particularly skilled at weaving the miracles into her narrative, making them believable, and offering a new insight into the characters as we see her or his reaction to the Virgin. The often deadly life of smalltown America is captured with skill and affection. The minor characters who populate the town and the novel

are richly drawn. *Mixed Blessings* made me laugh and cry and want to believe. Don't miss it. *Mixed Blessings* is available for \$8.40 on CD, \$5.25 as a download, \$5.75 on floppy, \$10.45 as a printed book. Go to jacobytebooks.com to order.

How can this be?

The female detective in *The Big Mango* (by Norman Kelley; Akashic Books, \$14.95) is not a lesbian, nor does she become a lesbian by the end of the novel. I had no idea that heterosexual women were allowed to be investigators, let alone tough, vengeful and sexy investigators, but Nina Halligan is all this and more. Kelley creates a no-nonsense investigator who does not take no for an answer, and who doesn't mind a little vengeance, as long as it doesn't get in the way of her main deal. Nina is trying to recover from the brutal murders of her husband and children. She knows who did it, and killing him, slowly and painfully, occupies most of her waking moments and all of her dreams. There's trouble, though, on the small island nation of Misericordia, which is an awful lot like Haiti, don't you know, but I'm sure the similarities are the merest coincidence.

Anyway, the democratically elected president of Misericordia has been ousted in a coup, and lots of Nina's friends and relations are working to see that Fa-



ther Bernard is reinstated. That effort seems to be at odds with the new policy of the Benton Administration, so when Nina's friends start turning up dead, and when the first lady threatens her with imprisonment or worse, Nina knows she has to go to Misericordia and find out what the hell is going on.

Kelley has a lot to say about the political horrors of runaway capitalism, but he never lectures. He always lets his characters do the talking. His African-American hero never forgets that to white America she is always black first, and Kelley makes sure that his readers don't forget, either. Nina never backs down when her integrity is threatened, and that

makes her the kind of detective you have to admire, even as you recognize that her friends frequently want to kill her, or at least get her to give up sometimes. Kelley's characters, minor and major, are filled with the telling details that bring them to vibrant life on the page. The plot is highly convoluted but never out of control. *The Big Mango* is a political thriller with extras galore, and a pleasure to read and recommend.

Call for submissions

L. Srivastava seeks "poetry, short stories, novel excerpts, for a literary anthology on violence against women, specifically, sexual abuse, domestic violence, war crimes, violent cultural practices. All points of view considered, especially survival and resistance." The deadline is January 15 (flexible). Send submissions with SASE to: L. Srivastava, Editor, PO Box 723, Murray Hill Station, NY, NY 10156. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

once again reduces gay men to sexual stereotypes, and lesbians to amorphous adjuncts to gay men. We give this series an F for too much fucking and not enough fucking reality. *Survivor*, anyone?

Front-burner queer

The last place we'd have expected to find reality TV was daytime. Yet that's where the year's best queer character appears. Bianca Montgomery (Eden Reigel) on ABC's *All My Children*, daughter of the famed Erica Kane (played by the equally famous Susan Lucci) came out a few months back, and the story has remained front-burner and fabulous since, despite calls to quit from irate viewers and fundamentalists. Reigel gets our vote for most poignant and realistic portrayal of a queer on TV. She gives real depth to the agonies most teens face in coming to terms with their sexuality.

Last week's episodes, as Bianca finally confronted Erica with her secret, were amazing. Bianca literally stripped down to her chemise and demanded that her shocked mother look at her and see her for who she was. That Erica couldn't, that she ran away from her daughter, seemed too true.

Coming out to the mother she reveres and fears frees Bianca, however. She reveals her sexual secret to her Uncle Jackson (Walt Willey), who has already guessed. His loving and accepting response is received with the relief many of us have felt ourselves. Newly brave, Bianca also refuses to be blackmailed by Greenlee (Michele Budig) any longer.

What is so stellar about this story is how true it rings. Lucci has given a fine performance as the mother who can't believe her

daughter isn't normal; Reigel is superb as the tortured adolescent. The supporting players — Jackson; Bianca's queer friend, Rain; Bianca's former lover, Sarah; Bianca's surrogate grandmother, Myrtle — all bolster the tale's realism.

Other bests in 2000 include best transition from small screen to big screen. In Terence Davies' evocation of Edith Wharton's brilliant novel *House of Mirth*, problematic heroine Lily is played by *X-Files* star and lesbian icon Gillian Anderson, whose performance is absolutely fabulous (and couldn't be more different from Scully). Worsts include the plethora of big-screen actors invading the small screen with excruciatingly dreadful sitcoms: Bette Midler, Gabriel Byrne and Geena Davis need to go back from whence they came.

We adored *Titans*, the short-lived prime-time soap from Aaron Spelling, and hope Fox picks it up. We hated *Dr. Laura's* short-lived talk show that never touched on any of the behind-the-scenes controversy. We loved *Survivor* and can barely wait the three weeks until the Outback version begins. We hated nearly every new sitcom except for The WB's *Grose Point*. We adored Will Ferrell's and Darrill Hammond's evocations of Bush and Gore on *Saturday Night Live*. We loved — and hated — the nonstop election coverage.

Yes, it was the best of TV and the worst of TV. And as we move forward into 2001, there will be more. Tune in January 9 to ABC's espionage reality TV show, *The Mole*, followed by the season premiere of *NYPD Blue*. NBC's *Three Sisters* looks amusing. And January 20 marks another new series, *The Bush Years*, Redux. We doubt it will have the panache, excitement, attitude or scandal of the Clinton Years. But we'll be a captive audience, nevertheless.

Happy New Year! ▼



Amanda Moody performs *Serial Murderess* at Venue 9. See Friday.

of Fine Arts, Marina District. Info: (415) EXP-LORE; www.exploratorium.edu

ODC Theater & Gallery

ODC/San Francisco, one of the West Coast's premiere modern-dance companies, presents ODC/unplugged, a rare opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of new artistic work by ODC's three choreographers, Brenda Way, KT Nelson, and Kimi Okada. Tonight, guests can preview KT Nelson's "House of Cards," a full company piece set to a score by Zap Mama. \$15 gen'l adm. 6:30pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Info/tix: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com

budding Rhino. \$12 previews; \$25 opening night (Jan. 13); \$15 Wed., Thu., & Sun. (matinees & evenings). \$20 Fri. & Sat. Thru Feb. 10. Located at 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Tix: 861-5079.

New Langton Arts

Opening reception: "Stranger Than You," in which six illustrators and figurative artists combine an understanding of the confusing and hurtful ways people interact with each other with a vivid grasp of the absurd humor necessary to carry us through. Featuring the artwork of Thomas Plagemann, Daniel Clowes, Amy Cutler, Chris Finley, Christine Shields, and Eric White. Curated by James Bewley.

From the vast, sepi-washed, time-lost civilizations of Thomas Plagemann to the stark and unforgiving anytown streets of "Ghost World" and "Eightball Comics" creator Daniel Clowes, these artists generate a persistent mood of isolated distance and eerie familiarity. Co-Presented the Cartoon Art Museum's "Even More Stranger Than You." Free. 6-9pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: www.newlangtonarts.org

Magic Theatre

Opening night: Word for Word presents *Oil!* — Chapter One: "The Ride" by Upton Sinclair, directed by Delia MacDougall, a sweeping Califor-

nia epic chronicling the tumultuous oil boom and how it altered the course of California history. Featuring Word for Word actor and charter member Stephanie Hunt along with Molly Harvey, Robert Parsons, and Gendell Hernandez. Word for Word is a theatre company that transforms classic and contemporary fiction into performance works for the stage, preserving the author's language and honoring his or her literary intent. \$22. 8:30pm. Thru Jan. 28. Fort Mason Center, Northside, Bldg. D. Tix/info: 437-6775.

Rialto Cinema, Santa Rosa

Face to Face's MANfest program presents "The Gay Men's Film Series" (2nd Thursday of each month).

Tonight featuring Steam: *The Turkish Bath*, a film about gay love, life and culture clash, filmed on-site in Turkey. Though controversial within Turkish culture, the film was a hit in the U.S. and Europe. Optional dinner beforehand in reserved room at Mary's Pizza Shack, right beside the Rialto. Dinner at 6pm; movie at 7:15pm. After the movie, everyone is invited next door to Clo's Ice Cream for more social time. Rialto Cinema, 551 Summerville Road, Santa Rosa. Info: Eric Wallen at (707) 544-1581.

Herbst Theatre

The New Century Chamber Orchestra presents "Jeffrey Kahane Plays Bach." The program includes Stravinsky's *Apollon Musagète*, Tchaikovsky's *Andante Cantabile*, and Bach's *Brandenburg concerto #5*. With Jeffrey Kahane on harpsichord, Tim Daly on flute and Krista Benion Feeney on violin, plus Bach's *Keyboard concerto in d minor* with Kahane on piano. \$25/\$30 (half-price student tix available). 8pm. Info/Tix: 433-6226.

Thick House

The all-female, physically and verbally articulate dance/theater performance trio Squad appears in this brand-new, cutting-edge theater space in Potrero Hill. Fresh from their residency at the renowned Djerassi artists' colony, Squad present two world premieres, *Debt* and *Physics of a Delicate Nature*, and a reprise of last year's hit *Leisure Lost*. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 1695 18th St. (at Carolina). Info/tix: 401-8081.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

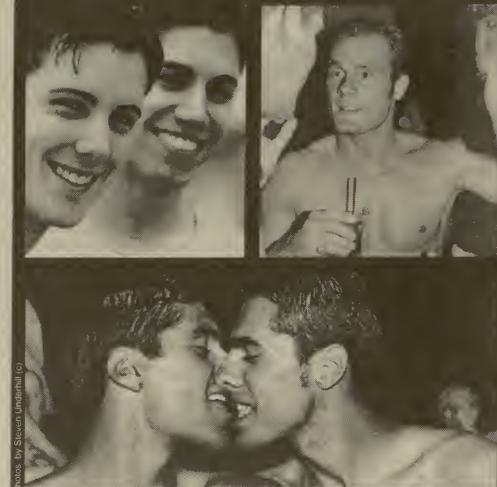
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2nd Wednesdays at the Exploratorium presents Aerovox, featuring the airy performance-art of Heinrich Lüber. See Wednesday.

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The Year of the Snake

by Mister Marcus

Here we go again: A new year, new goals to reach, new title holders, lots of leather events and all sorts of fundraising — it's a way of life for many of us. Yet life is full of uncertainties, so it's always wise to consult the Chinese Lunar Calendar to see what the new year holds in store for us leatherfolk.

According to the Lunar Calendar, this is the year 4699, "Year of the Snake." It may sound ominous to be a Snake person, but consider these traits: Snake people are persistent, possessive, wise, deep thinkers, graceful and soft spoken. They are attractive, financially secure and unrelenting, often demanding. Snake people mate well with the Ox, Rooster or Dragon, and their years are: 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 and 2025. Is there a snake in your life?

The coming months are chock full of events that may or may not appeal to you, but you can't say there isn't something for everyone. Lots of contests, lots of beer busts, and lots of opportunities will be presented for you to enjoy and, hopefully, support with your plastic, checks or hard cash, all for causes you believe in.

For those rare moments when you're not out and about at contests, two new books have made their appearances on select bookstore shelves. Joseph Bean's latest tome is entitled *Flogging*, and if you don't consider it a "must", you are not in step with the times. It's an easy read, informative and full of stuff you should know if you're into the BDSM game at all. Also out is the new, fully updated Millennium Edition of Larry Townsend's *Leatherman's Handbook*. To many, this is the required reading of SM 101. If you know anyone who's interested in our lifestyle and wants to know more about it, buy this book and give it to him or her as a gift. It's the best way to "learn" while you "yearn".

Splendor at the river

Last Thursday night, December 28, those of you who are frequent visitors to Guerneville would not have believed your eyes had you been out in front of the Club Fab. In a town where casual,



Six of these 2001 Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off at the Eagle beer bust on Sunday, January 7 — all to benefit the AEF and Positive Resources. Lenny Broberg will MC with Leather Daddy Keith Truitt acting as "Vanna."

casual cool is de rigueur most of the time, it was a sight to behold. After all, it is a resort town.

The occasion was a benefit for the Sonoma County AIDS Emergency Fund, put on by Mr. North Coast Leather T. Jay Cain. This guy is on the ball. I don't know how he managed it, but T.Jay got Shann Carr, Ursula Cain, Momi Starr and 65 of the voices of the SF Gay Men's Chorus to perform. He also enlisted the chefs of at least five Guerneville eateries to provide a sumptuous 5-course banquet. Glittering gowns, tuxedoes, top hats, women in furs and corsets, coats and ties, and one dude in a formal Scottish kilt. This event was the most elegant thing I've ever seen in Guerneville. One gent arrived in his own personal fire truck, sirens blasting forth, lights flashing and everyone staring in awe. The only thing missing was a string of stretch limousines, but who cares? It was truly a spiritual night and my hat off to T.Jay for such a splendid effort. If you missed it, well, there's always next time!

Spot items

Sad news reached my desk with the final issue of *Sandmuttonia Guardian*, which abruptly ceased publication. No explanation was given but back issues are available and no one knows for sure if and when it will resume printing.

Good news: Christopher Posler (AKA "Rover") has been named the Assistant Director of the Leather Archives & Museum in

Chicago, working with Joseph Bean. This means that the LA&M will be open to the public from 1400-2000 on Thursdays and from Noon to 1700 on the first Saturday of each month. Appointments can be made other times by calling Christopher at (773) 761-9200. Mr. Posler has been involved in leather since the late 1970s, mostly in Detroit, but he is also a high-profile member of Chicago's leather tribe.

The scoop

So here we are in January 2001, and events we can look forward to this month include Boot Night (with Driller) at the Loading Dock this Friday, January 5, followed on Thursday, January 11 by the (Mr. January 2002) bare chest contest at the Powerhouse.

If you're in Los Angeles, the Mr. Gauntlet II Leather contest takes place at that time-honored bar. The winner will compete in the Mr. Los Angeles Leather contest on March 24 — yes the Los Angeles Leather Coalition (LALC) is still in business and planning another spectacular production at the El Rey Theatre.

The Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend by the Centaur MC takes place in Washington, DC the weekend of January 12-15 when Tom Robinson will step aside for a successor. Mr. San Francisco Eagle Tavern leather contest is on Sunday, January 14 and the GDI's are having their 27th anniversary at the Eagle on Saturday, Jan 20. It is rumored that at that event they will probably announce they are folding.

Mr. February 2002 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 4

Basket contest at The Edge, with Danny Williams running the show.

Friday, January 5

It's the first Friday of the year and the first Friday of the month so that means it's Boot Night at the Loading Dock. Gather around 2100 and "Driller" will be on hand for free shins. Slather over leather and groove out!

Sunday, January 7

Six men on the 2001 Bare Chest Calendar will be auctioned off at the Eagle beer bust, 1500-1800. Dinner dates at great restaurants, raffles for boots donated by Stompers. Lenny Broberg emcees assisted by Keith "Vanna" Truitt. Only \$8, plus food. Don't miss this one! The Golden Gate Guards host a beer bust at the Lone Star immediately after for only \$7, and it's always fun at the Lone Star.

Wednesday, January 10

The Ring present their first gathering of 2001 with: "Creative Use of Plastic Wrap." They're so secretive, you have to have email to get invited and know the location. It's thering@ixnetcom.com

Thursday, January 11

Bare Chest Calendar 2002 kicks off tonight when Mr. January 2002 gets picked by judges at the Powerhouse. Starts at 9pm sharp. Win \$100 and fame, and work hard for your community. Judges will be Nick Knight, Bob Miller and Philip Rubin, signed by Houston Davenport.

Constantines beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, from 2000-2300, and it's only \$7. I hope Al Aden is back from So. Africa by then!

Friday, January 12

Mr. Gauntlet II Leather contest at the Gauntlet in Los Angeles. Winner competes for Mr. LA Leather in March.

Weekend, January 12-13

Centaurs MC in Washington, DC, and Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather & Leather Cocktails weekend. Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2001 will be chosen and all the usual suspects and holy cows will be there.

Sunday, January 14

Mr. San Francisco Eagle Tavern Leather will be chosen at the beer/soda bust today, 1500-1700. You can still sign up to compete!

PORN

Heated reading

'The Best of the Superstars 2001'

by John F. Karr

In just a moment, folks, The Worst Video of 2000. But first, let me welcome the biggest year-end treat, *The Best of the Superstars 2001: The Year in Sex*. This year's edition of editor John Patrick's juicy compendium of sex, scandal and gossip (STARbooks Press, paper, \$11.95) is bigger and better than ever — and not just because it quotes my reviews three more times than last year's volume (not that I'm keeping score, but that's a total of 11, including the quote miscredited to "Another Critic"). The book has 50 more pages of imperative items, and lots of photographs. It's a limited edition, and sells out each year.

Although the first third of the book, a round-up of news items pertaining to the heartthrobs of Hollywood, television and boy bands, is thorough yet succinct, and not without a clear-eyed speculation of who may or may not be gay, I'm not quite as avid for this sort of news. The reading heats up in the section on porn stars, which dissects their particular skills and peculiarities in fanatical depth. And then comes the unparalleled section on Escorts, in which confederates of the editor have written in from all over the country to tell of their personal encounters with the stars, who are rated like Olympic athletes for the way in which their personal expertise was applied. It's a *Consumer's Reports* for hustlers; one can hardly believe what one is reading. I'm not sure if there is an equivalent in the straight world; I certainly know of no publication which not only sanctions hustling like this, but regulates it. But the gay world makes its own rules, and we know what consensual sex is. This is exotic, heated reading, to say the least.

The book's latter portions dwell at length on the porn stars in their movies, followed by travel tips to the world's major gay spots: Top Ten Rent Boy Destinations is especially juicy, with San Francisco treated at length (and the Nob Hill Theatre harshly treated for greater length than the management will care for). But *The Best of the Superstars* is no low-brow tome. Editor Patrick gleans the pithiest quotes on all subjects sexual from the country's media. From the BAR alone, he's quoted Robert Julian, Mark Marodon, Stephanie von Buchau, Richard Dods, Victoria Brownsworth, and Out There. There are those who persist in calling the BAR a rag, but I'm not sure they're really taking in the quality of arts writing the paper publishes. John Patrick has noticed, and quotes the BAR more than any other gay publication.

Karrnal Knowledge

Karrnal Knowledge Second Favorite Boy of the Year Nino Bacci

Value packed

And despite the book cover's touting of "Sex, Scandal, and Gossip," editor Patrick has an eye for the meaningful. He's not above a touching parental concern for his favorite rent boy's use of recreational drugs, and he stops wallowing in the troughs long enough to let several writers expound on the meaning and value of our sexuality and its expression in porn. He's even unearthed a surprising memoir by one of our

breeziest local literary lights, Kevin Killian. Kevin's "Strategic Sex," which details his experiences as a porn star, had been buried in an obscure anthology, but Patrick found it. And yes, for those of you who toss upon your black satin sheets while fantasizing about the impish Mr. Killian, you heard me right: Kevin confirmed for me this adventure is not fiction. He was a porn star for a brief moment in 1972, and the present item is an extract from Kevin's book about that time. Called *Cry Like a Baby*, it will be published this coming October, giving us all reason to live. To keep us all waiting with bated breath, Kevin shared some of his book's revelations with me. He's not only slept with Tony Perkins ("He was a little dramatic"), but local writer/beauty Sam D'Allesandro (making me so jealous I could spit). And did Kevin really tell me that he was William Burroughs' last lay? I must've heard wrong.

But back to *Best of the Superstars*. Among its choicer tidbits are Chip Daniel's advice on overcoming the gag reflex, and a revealing look at the backstage technique that yields Kris Bjorn some mechanical couplings. This links to a discussion of the evolving attitudes toward gay-for-pay boys,

and a touch of understandable jaundice shown toward the popularity of European porn. Those frequently bi boys have a different attitude toward male-to-male sex than we do. Lacking gay identity, they also seem to lack gay passion. But there's no lack of passion between the covers of *The Best of the Superstars*. What a lot of fun, and revealing reading.

Sex interrupted

And The Worst Porn Movie of 2000 is ... *The Bare Dick Project*. It's not just that in imitating the homemade look of *Blair Witch* it's unwatchably crude. And it's not just that its sex, color, sound and videography are bad. That's B-A-D. It does all the things I hate in porn. It has guys saying they're straight, mentioning their girlfriends, and then taking it up the ass. It interrupts the sex with narrative. And it includes its filmmaker onscreen as narrator and busbody interrupter of the action. But its worst crime may be that it makes even Jason Branch look bad. *Bare Dick* is on its rapid way from lame to dull when Jason takes off his clothes, and things look up for a moment. His hard-on just can't be scoffed at. But director Terence Allen manages to trounce even the ever-dependable Jason, which makes me wonder. What was Jason doing in this movie in the first place? It seems he'll sell himself to anybody.

And while I'm at it, may I say I'm tiring of Jason and even of his spouse, Blake Harper? I recently called them the Royal Couple of Porn, but they're more like sexual Stepford Wives. Yes, sex technique to marvel at. But do they show signs of life? That's why I'm naming Nino Bacci as my second favorite boy of the year, after Carlos Morales. Nino's so happy. He has fun. So all you butch guys out there, take this to heart in the new year: A smile doesn't make you less masculine. It makes you sexy. Are you listening, Lance? ▼





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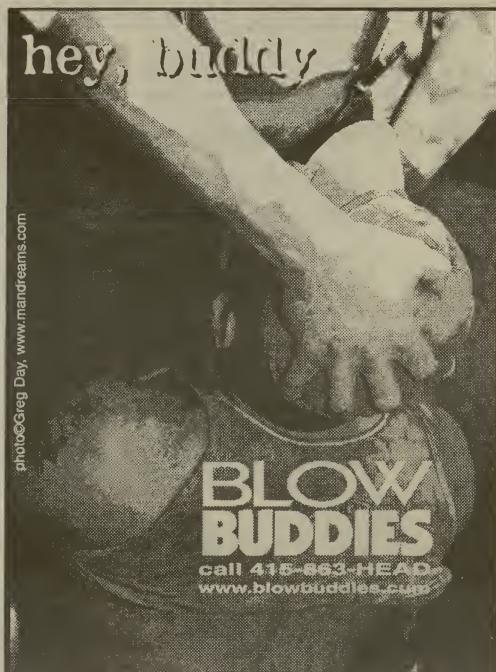
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Wed., Jan. 10th

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

day, January 25. Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2001 will be chosen at that bar on Friday, January 26 — same night as Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's AEF Cancer Dinner at the Cliff House. Mama will provide

shuttle buses from the Cliff House to the Powerhouse for those who *must* be in both places that night.

The Defenders celebrate their 7th Anniversary on Saturday, January 27, and in Los Angeles, Mr. Faultline Leather 2001 will be chosen in a competition at Shawn Farnsworth's bailiwick.

There's more, but this should

give you an idea that 2001 will be busy leatherwise. So hang in there, attend the events that appeal to you, and above all give of yourself — if not with cash, then as a volunteer. Most leather benefits succeed big-time because of your volunteer efforts, and don't think they are not appreciated. See you all next week! ▼



Piki & Poko

◀ Arts cover

reliance, but what he means is be rude and self-serving!"

To achieve their evil ends, cold, calculating Homemaker and her wildly varied assortment of no-good cohorts must first overcome the powerful loving auras of giddy Piki Matsumoto and brainy Poko Shizumitsu, two Japanese teenage girls whose friendship is indestructible and whose psychic powers are so strong and in-sync that they alone can save DJ Aries and Starland from destruction.

Nothing in Starland can be taken for granted, however, not even the goodness of the petite heroes:

"Piki & Poko also have tremendous powers of destruction," says co-creator Cutler as he and Ewert offer a tour of the extensive Mondo Media facilities, situated by chance around the corner from the Bottom of the Hill, the hot rock 'n' roll nightclub at the foot of Potrero Hill.

Flesh out

Inside the nondescript Mondo Media building, which bustles with animators, art directors, sound and vocal artists, and the usual contingent of programmers and Web technicians, a sizable team works to flesh out the *Piki & Poko* scripts that Cutler and Ewert both write and direct.

The location may be a coincidence, but working a hop and a skip from the Bottom of the Hill no doubt psychically influences the creation of *Piki & Poko*, since the animation possesses strong rock 'n' roll sensibilities, updated with a continuing, searingly funny riff on global rave/DJ culture.

In fact, that riff is possibly the most brilliant stroke in *Piki & Poko*, because in its surge to dominate the psyches of tender youth, DJ/rave/dance-party culture has been steamrolling over rock 'n' roll, which struggles to remain relevant in the age of hyperspeed music, information processing, culture shifting, and brainwave fragmenting. Contemporary DJ culture captures the souped-up energy of our times, and yet its



Piki & Poko creators Mark Ewert and David Cutler

rave incarnation is escapist to the core, often paired with the kind of magical-mystery-tour visual symbolism that sucks kids right in, letting them transport physically and psychically to a place of enchantment, peace and sensuality, rather than confront directly the brutal truths of our dying Industrial Age.

That place of escape, like the wilderness of yore, is where techno-age kids go to recoup, regroup, and find themselves, yearning to stay moderately sane in an apparently insane world.

"Starland is kind of a Jungian concept for wholism in yourself," avers the occasionally professorish Cutler, whose alter ego is represented by Poko, the one with the glasses and the more darkly-poetic personality. "Different parts of it represent different parts of ourselves, and by extrapolation different parts of the world. So the subliminal message [for teenage girls and other fans] would be about self-acceptance, and being able to express every different part of yourself."

Launched just before the turn of 2001, *Piki & Poko: Adventures in Starland* possesses much of the flavor of Japanese anime, the disjointed, impressionistic, magic-infused style that has captured the imaginations of teenagers and childlike adults the world over.

Ablely executed by the Mondo Media crew, *Piki & Poko* scripts are devilishly subtle, with clever concepts represented in a gleefully psychedelic, racy visual style. At first glance, the cartooning seems infantile, yet so ingenious are the renderings, so imaginative the fare, the series has the potential to draw large audiences of adults while keeping teenagers of all genders (there are countless genders in Starland) in thrall to the topsy-turvy psychic Starland spectacle.

"David and I primarily do the show for ourselves," says Ewert, a notoriously fun-loving, self-satirizing queer-culture vulture renowned for his affairs with various distinguished literary gents. "So that includes all our influences, which are everything from high gay camp culture to children's literature to fantasy to sci-fi to astrology. Is it more palatable to teenage girls? Yes, the esthetic is very appealing to them. First and foremost, we're doing it to amuse the hell out of ourselves."

"I think the style is post-anime," injects Cutler.

"If there's one thing David and I do really well that makes *Piki & Poko* special," continues Ewert, "is we're really into being both sincere and ironic at the same time. Not to essentialize, but I think that's a real gay trait."

Rather than being either all cold-spirited and mean, or all sappy and sentimental, *Piki & Poko* is meant to walk a fine line between satire and sincerity.

Says Ewert, "We're not into being super-pious."

"In Starland," says Cutler, "the plot is that 12 zodiac DJs all need to make their celestial music, and that keeps the universe in harmony. It's as the Homemaker and Shaper start destroying the temples that the Universe becomes out of balance."

That's why the two psychic warriors, in the forms of little girls, must endure endless travails and travel through endless expanses and dimensions — in order to keep the cosmos steady as he goes.

For those who log on to the Mondo Media site to check out *Piki & Poko*, the extra added incentives are the virtual DJs who offer visitors weekly horoscopes.

The zodiac craze is on worldwide, and this animation taps into it shamelessly.

"We both identify as Pagans as part of what we are," says Ewert. "Everything in this show has a spirit. The landscapes are alive; the rocks are alive; the bridges are alive; giant kernels of corn are alive."

Cutler, in his usual matter-of-fact, no bullshit way, insists many people he knows actually want to live in a place like Starland. For him, that's not as far-fetched as it might seem: "Mark and I, because of our interest in multidimensional reality, think Starland is real, and what we're doing is kind of channeling that real world as artists."

May the powers of evil be vanquished, and the besieged zodiac DJs be free to spin their soothing celestial music for eons to come! ▼

www.mondominishows.com



Carter's Shepard is sweet, confused, smart, and out of place in Laramie.

Don Powell

Hate Crime

◀ Arts cover

where Shepard was found a few weeks after Hendersen's arrest; and Chasity Pasley, Hendersen's girlfriend who also worked for the LGBT group at the University of Wyoming, where she and Shepard were students.

Hunter explores the backgrounds of the characters, showing McKinney's problems with queers long before his fatal encounter with Shepard, and how nice-guy Hendersen was so negatively influenced by both McKinney and drugs. He also shows how much Shepard struggled with his sexuality, loneliness and general outsider status prior to his death.

Lost in the Casbah

A particularly poignant moment in the film comes when Shepard is walking with friend Kara and stops by a store window. "I had a pair of shoes like that once," he says wistfully. He then recounts how, on a senior class trip to Morocco, he got lost in the Casbah and was gang-raped by a group of Arab men. They took his shoes — the shoes like those in the window — so he could not run after them.

Later, McKinney will do the same thing.

Anatomy is a painful film to watch — it's brutal and visceral, and the cinema vérité quality of

both script and acting makes it seem a little too real — which, of course, it is.

Carter's Shepard is sweet, confused, smart and utterly out of place in Laramie. Somerhalder shows how circumstance can change a person from good to evil almost by accident. And Fletcher shows how uncontrolled anger mixed with drugs and alcohol lead to catastrophe.

The film poses the question asked by Shepard's ghost at McKinney's sentencing, "Do the bad things that happen to us in our lives give us license to find acceptable targets for our anger?"

The answer is no, but the film leaves that area a little gray. Hunter never says the killers had an excuse, but he does show they were more than simply monsters — which only serves to deepen the tragedy. Pasley's character is also compellingly complex, with a possible lesbian mother and her own connection to queer culture. Killers, accomplices and victim, all were teens in trouble, and Hunter aptly explicates their tragic interaction.

Anatomy provides an excellent, thought-provoking teaching tool. This film should be shown in classrooms, especially to boys at risk for becoming McKinneys or Hendersens. ▼

Anatomy of a Hate Crime airs on MTV January 10, 8 p.m.

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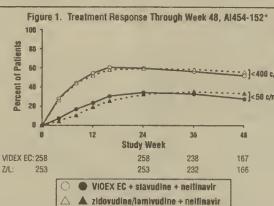
INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VIDEX EC in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation. (See Clinical Studies, PRECAUTIONS: Frequency of Dosing; Dose and Duration of Treatment and Administration.)

There are limited data to date to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily regimen of didanosine.

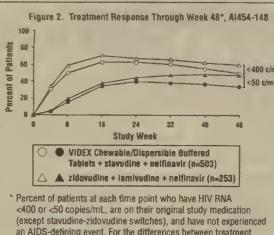
Clinical Studies: Once-daily dosing of didanosine produces a pharmacokinetic profile that is substantially different from that observed with twice-daily dosing of didanosine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). Further, VIDEX EC and the VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation produce substantially different pharmacokinetic profiles when dosed once daily. Therefore, controlled clinical trials were conducted with both formulations to evaluate the safety and efficacy of once-daily dosing of didanosine. There is no available long-term safety and efficacy data to fully compare the safety of the once-daily didanosine regimens. A small clinical study that has been conducted to address this issue was not interpretable due to the small number of patients who completed the study.

Once-Daily VIDEX EC Study: Study A1454-152 is an ongoing, 48-week, randomized, open-label study comparing VIDEX EC (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) plus neffinavir (750 mg three times daily) to zidovudine (200 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) combination tablets plus neffinavir (750 mg three times daily) in 511 treatment-naive patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 411 cells/mm³ (range 39 to 1105 cells/mm³) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.71 log₁₀ copies/mL (range 2.8 to 5.9 log₁₀ copies/mL) at baseline. Patients were primarily females (72%) and Caucasian (53%) with a mean age of 35 years (range 18 to 73 years). The percentages of patients with HIV-1 RNA >400 <500 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure (eg, virologic failure, discontinuation for any reason, or AIDS-defining event) through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 1.



* This analysis includes all randomized patients through Week 24 and after that point is restricted to patients whose randomization date allows for 36 or 48 weeks of follow-up. The number of patients at each point is indicated below the figure.

Once-Daily VIDEX Buffered Tablets Study: Study A1454-148 was a randomized, open-label, multicenter study comparing treatment with VIDEX Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) and neffinavir (750 mg three times daily) versus zidovudine (300 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) and neffinavir (750 mg three times daily) in 756 treatment-naive patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 368 cells/mm³ (range 20 to 1568 cells/mm³) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.69 log₁₀ copies/mL (range 2.6 to 5.9 log₁₀ copies/mL) at baseline. The percentages of patients with HIV-1 RNA <400 and <500 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 2.



* Percent of patients at each time point who have HIV RNA <400 or <500 copies/mL are on their original study medication (except stavudine/zidovudine switches), and have not experienced an AIDS-defining event. For the differences between treatment groups at 48 weeks, p<0.05 by Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test.

CONTRAINDICTION

VIDEX EC is contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation.

WARNINGS

1. Pancreatitis

FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAS OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WITH DIDANOSINE USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION REGIMENS IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION. VIDEX EC SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IN PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATITIS AND DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED PANCREATITIS. PATIENTS TREATED WITH DIDANOSINE, ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, MAY BE AT INCREASED RISK FOR PANCREATITIS.

When treatment with life-sustaining drugs known to cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC therapy is recommended. In patients with risk factors for pancreatitis, VIDEX EC should be used with extreme caution and only if clearly indicated. Patients with advanced HIV infection, especially the elderly, are at increased risk of pancreatitis and should be followed closely. Patients with renal impairment may be at greater risk for pancreatitis if treated without dose adjustment.

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranges from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

2. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis

Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including didanosine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when using VIDEX EC to treat patients known to have risk factors for this disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with VIDEX EC should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

3. Retinal Changes and Optic Neuritis

Retinal changes and optic neuritis have been reported in patients taking didanosine. Periodic retinal examinations should be considered for patients receiving VIDEX EC. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS.)

PRECAUTIONS

Precautions of Dosing: VIDEX EC should only be administered once daily. There are no data on the use of VIDEX EC dosed more frequently than once daily.

There are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine. Therefore, the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX buffered formulation. Once-daily dosing with VIDEX EC should be considered only for adult patients whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation (see Clinical Studies). Consult the prescribing information for VIDEX EC and the pediatric formulation and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for information on twice-daily dosing.

VIDEX EC should be taken on an empty stomach.

Peripheral Neuropathy: Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving didanosine therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, in patients with a history of neuropathy, or in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including stavudine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

General: Patients with Renal Impairment: Patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance <60 mL/min) may be at greater risk of toxicity from didanosine due to decreased drug clearance (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). A dose reduction is recommended in these patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Patients with Hepatic Impairment: It is unknown if hepatic impairment significantly affects didanosine pharmacokinetics. Therefore, these patients should be monitored closely for evidence of didanosine toxicity.

Rx ONLY

Hyperuricemia: Didanosine has been associated with asymptomatic hyperuricemia; treatment suspension may be necessary if clinical measures aimed at reducing uric acid levels fail. (Information for Patients: see Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information):

Patients should be informed that a serious toxicity of didanosine, used alone and in combination regimens, is pancreatitis, which may be fatal.

Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, may occur during therapy with VIDEX EC (didanosine). Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of VIDEX EC may be required if toxicity develops.

Patients should be informed that when didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when didanosine is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients may also experience VIDEX EC toxicities in the presence of medications or other substances, including alcohol, that may exacerbate VIDEX EC toxicities.

Patients should be informed that the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation because there are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily regimen.

VIDEX EC is not a cure for HIV infection, and patients may continue to develop HIV-associated illnesses, including opportunistic infection. Therefore, patients should remain under the care of a physician when using VIDEX EC. Patients should be advised that VIDEX EC therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or breast feeding. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIDEX EC are unknown at this time.

Oral interactions (see also CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information):

Drug interactions that have been established based on drug interaction studies are listed with the pharmacokinetic results in CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions (Tables 3-5 in full prescribing information). The clinical recommendations based on the results of these studies are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
Established Drug Interactions Based on Studies with Buffered Formulations of Didanosine and Expected to Occur with VIDEX EC

Coadministration Not Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions, in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)

Drug	Effect	Clinical Comment
abacavir	↑ didanosine concentration	Coadministration not recommended.
ganciclovir	↑ didanosine concentration	Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.
methadone	↓ didanosine concentration	Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

↑ indicates increase.
↓ indicates decrease.

Coadministration of VIDEX EC with drugs that are known to cause pancreatitis may increase the risk of this toxicity (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis). Predicted drug interactions with VIDEX EC are listed in Table 2.

Table 2
Predicted Drug Interactions with VIDEX EC

Use with Caution, Risk of Adverse Reactions May Be Increased

Drug Class	Effect	Clinical Comment
Drugs that may cause pancreatic toxicity	↑ risk of pancreatitis	Use only with extreme caution.*
Neurotoxic drugs	↑ risk of neuropathy	Use with caution.*

*Indicates increase.
†Only if other drugs are not available and if clearly indicated. If treatment with life-sustaining drugs that cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC is recommended (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis).

* See PRECAUTIONS: Peripheral Neuropathy.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis: Lifetime carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice and rats for 22 and 24 months, respectively. In the mouse study, initial doses of 120, 800, and 1200 mg/kg/day for each sex were lowered after 8 months to 120, 210, and 210 mg/kg/day for females and 120, 300, and 600 mg/kg/day for males. The two higher doses exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in females and the high dose exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in males. The low dose in females represented 0.68-fold maximum human exposure and the high dose in females represented 1.6-fold maximum human exposure and the intermediate dose represented 1.0-fold maximum human exposure based on relative AUC comparisons. In the rat study, initial doses were 100, 250, and 1000 mg/kg/day, and the high dose was lowered to 500 mg/kg/day after 18 months. The upper dose in male and female rats represented 3-fold maximum human exposure.

Didanosine induced no significant increase in neoplastic lesions in mice or rats at maximally tolerated doses.

Didanosine was positive in the following genetic toxicology assays: 1) the Escherichia coli tester strain WP2 uvrA bacterial mutagenicity assay; 2) the L5178Y/TK+/- mouse lymphoma cell assay; 3) the L5178Y/TK+/- mouse lymphoma cell assay in Chinese hamster fibroblasts; 4) the in vitro chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster lung cells; and 5) the BALB/C 3T6 in vitro transformation assay. No evidence of mutagenicity was observed in an Ames *Salmonella* bacterial mutagenicity assay in rat or mouse in two micronucleus assays.

Pregnancy, Reproduction and Fertility: Pregnancy "Category B". Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 12 and 14.2 times the estimated human exposure (based upon plasma levels), respectively, and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to didanosine. At approximately 12 times the estimated human exposure, didanosine is toxic to female rats and their offspring mid and late lactation. These rats showed reduced weight gain, body weight loss, and functional development of the offspring was not impaired and there were no major changes in the F2 generation. A study in rats showed that didanosine and/or its metabolites are transferred to the fetus through the placenta. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Pediatric Use: The safety and efficacy of VIDEX EC in pediatric patients have not been established. Please consult the complete prescribing information for VIDEX buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for dosage and administration of didanosine to pediatric patients.

Geriatric Use: In an Expanded Access Program using a buffered formulation of didanosine for the treatment of advanced HIV infection, patients aged 65 years and older had a higher frequency of pancreatitis (10%) than younger patients (5%) (see WARNINGS). Clinical studies of didanosine, including those for VIDEX EC, did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 years and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Didanosine is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, caution should be taken in dose selection. In addition, renal function should be monitored and dosage adjustments should be made accordingly (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dose Adjustment).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

A SERIOUS TOXICITY OF DIDANOSINE IS PANCREATITIS, WHICH MAY BE FATAL (see WARNINGS). OTHER IMPORTANT TOXICITIES INCLUDE LACTIC ACIDOSIS/SEVERE HEPATOMEGLAY WITH STEATOSIS; RETINAL CHANGES AND OPTIC NEURITIS; AND PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY (see WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).

When didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the potential for increased risk of toxicity should be considered. Thus, patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine, lamivudine, or zidovudine, may be at increased risk for pancreatitis, which may be fatal, and hepatotoxicity (see WARNINGS). Patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine may also be at increased risk for peripheral neuropathy (see PRECAUTIONS).

Studies of VIDEX EC and a buffered didanosine formulation yielded comparable safety profiles for both formulations. Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events from Combination Studies of Didanosine Oosed Once Daily

Percent of Patients*
A1454-152* A1454-148*

Adverse Events	VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ neffinavir n=255		VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ lamivudine+ neffinavir n=250		VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ neffinavir n=482		VIDEX EC+ lamivudine+ neffinavir n=248	
	Grades	All	Grades	All	Grades	All	Grades	All
Diarrhea	54	55	70	60	70	70	66	66
Nausea	21	35	28	40	21	30	14	14
Headache	20	16	21	30	21	27	16	16
Peripheral Neuropathic:								
Symptoms/Neuropathy	20	8	26	6	20	8	14	14
Vomiting	13	18	12	14	13	17	10	10
Rash	10	10	13	16	10	13	10	10
Pancreatitis (see below)	<1	*	1	*	<1	*	<1	*

*Percentages based on treated patients.

†Median duration of 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC+stavudine+neffinavir group.

‡Median duration of 48 weeks.

§Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.

**This event was not observed in this study arm.

In clinical trials using a buffered formulation of didanosine, pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus neffinavir, one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus neffinavir, and 2 of 68 patients who received didanosine plus stavudine plus neffinavir plus hydroxyurea. In an early access program, pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received VIDEX EC (didanosine) plus stavudine plus neffinavir plus hydroxyurea.

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 7% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

Selected laboratory abnormalities that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine dosed once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Selected Laboratory Abnormalities from Combination Studies of Didanosine Oosed Once Daily

Percent of Patients*		A1454-152*		A1454-148*				
VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ neffinavir	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ neffinavir	Buffered Tablet+ stavudine+ neffinavir	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ neffinavir	VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ neffinavir	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ neffinavir			
n=255	n=250	n=482	n=248	n=255	n=248			
Grades	All	Grades	All	Grades	All			
3-4*	3-4*	3-4*	3-4*	3-4*	3-4*			
SGOT (AST)	4	40	4	3	42	2	23	
SGPT (ALT)	4	39	4	20	3	37	24	
Lipase	3	18	<1	8	7	17	2	11
Bilirubin	<1	7	<1	3	<1	7	<1	3

*Percentages based on treated patients.

†Median duration of treatment 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC+stavudine+neffinavir group.

‡Median duration of treatment 48 weeks.

§Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.

**5 x ULN for SGOT and SGPT, 22 x ULN for lipase, and 2.6 x ULN for bilirubin (ULN = upper limit of normal.)

Disorder during Clinical Practice:

The following events have been identified during postapproval use of didanosine buffered formulation. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to didanosine, or a combination of these factors.

Body as a Whole: abdominal pain, alopecia, anaphylactoid reaction, asthenia, chills/fever, and pain.

Digestive Disorders: anorexia, dyspepsia, and flatulence.

Endocrine Disorders: hypothyroidism (including fatal cases) (see WARNINGS), siadolemic, and goiter.

Liver and Biliary: acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS); hepatitis and liver failure.

Metabolic Disorders: diabetes mellitus, elevated serum alkaline phosphatase level, elevated serum amylase level, elevated serum gamma-glutamyltransferase level, elevated serum uric acid level, hypoglycemia, and hyperglycemia.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: myalgia (with or without increases in creatine kinase), rhabdomyolysis including acute renal failure and hemodialysis, arthralgia, and myopathy.

Ophthalmologic Disorders: Retinal depigmentation and optic neuritis (see WARNINGS).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Adults: VIDEX EC should be administered on an empty stomach.

VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules should be swallowed intact.

The recommended daily dose is dependent on body weight and is administered as one capsule given on a once-daily schedule as outlined in Table 5.

Table 5
Dosing of VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules

Patient Weight	Dosage
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The queer side of Athens

Katakouzinos' 'Angel' out on DVD

by Gary Morris

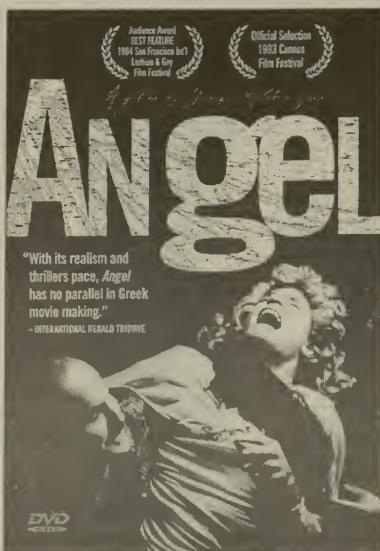
Giorgos Katakouzinos' 1982 feature *Angel* (*Aggelos*) is one of the most acclaimed and popular Greek films ever, with, according to one source, "one Greek in 20 having seen it." This in spite of the fact that it's a luridly, not to mention openly, queer story that features — exposes is more like it — Athens' seedy queer subculture, from public park cruising to tranny whores luring the good married heteros into their web for a quick blow job or nervous fuck. Perhaps audiences responded in such numbers

Daddy's a drunken lout, Mother and Granny are both embittered ex-whores, and Sis is a drooling retardate. None of these flaws, if they can be called such, comes close to *Angel's* "problem": he's gay, and desperately closeted.

In one of those dream scenes that the aforementioned homo potboiler narratives adored, *Angel* is approached by hunky hyperbutch Mikhalis, dressed in one of queerdom's most treasured costumes: a skintight sailor suit. Enchanting as this outfit is, it can't contain Mikhalis' bulging muscles; he's a Tom of Finland drawing come to life. Mikhalis is almost scarily direct, and the quiet,

he discovers the grim reality behind all the "fabulous" makeup and glittering dish. The trannies are exploited and assaulted by their pimps and routinely beaten by the local men (after the blowjobs, no doubt) after their wives, who apparently can't take the competition, demand it. *Angel* is brutally beaten and then ousted to his family by a homophobic cop. The action spirals downward with alarming rapidity, ending in those staples of retrogressive queer cinema: a suicide, a psychotic breakdown, and a "homosexual murder."

Angel, who becomes *Angel* after his transition to working gal, is passive and pathetic even by the standards of retro queer cinema. A soldier by day, he spends his evenings mincing around like an obedient dog, groveling before Mikhalis (admittedly not an altogether unattractive prospect), adjusting his wig and panties and mindlessly cooperating in his own demise. The film helps him along nicely in this downward drift. When his father stabs himself to death with scissors upon learning that *Angel* is a "fag," his son morbidly follows daddy's dead body through



its final prep, grimly awash in the guilt that his "sin" has allegedly triggered.

All this *sturm und drang* isn't the whole picture, and *Angel* is ultimately diverting for anyone who can assign the homophobics to the period and ignore the sledgehammer symbolism (at one point *Angel* is raped in a public dump, with garbage falling on and around him — get it?). Buried in

all the highjinks is a convincing portrait of Athens' tranny whore community and the strategies queens evolve for expressing queerness in a historically hyper-macho culture. It's the old story: if you're on top, in control, you're not queer, even if your dick is buried in another man's ass.

There's also some choice dialogue. *Angel's* retired-whore granny gets some of the best. Fondly reminiscing about the good old days, she says, "Our daughters spread their legs for a cup of olive oil." There's an unavoidable fascination with such retrograde material, probably deriving from the same feeling that makes us continue to seek out historical queer imagery in books and movies long after what they have to offer has been rejected. From our vantage point in 2001, we can almost laugh at such dubious material and consign it to the safe realm of camp. ▼

Angel is available from WaterBearer Films, which has a small but tasty collection of queer cinema available on DVD and VHS.

In 'Angel,' tranny whores lure good married heterosexual men into their web for a quick blow job or a nervous fuck. The film is reminiscent of '50s or '60s gay potboilers drenched in gay guilt.

not only because of the sensational subject matter, but also because the movie is so drenched in gay guilt it's reminiscent of those 1950s and '60s gay potboilers that portrayed queens as sympathetic but subhuman and ultimately pathological. In spite of *Angel's* popularity in Greece, it's little known here. Its resurrection on DVD, in a transfer that's a bit too grainy to these jaded eyes, might redress the balance, but modern queers who now have choices may find yet another cinematic psycho homo too many.

The story is certainly promising, and director Katakouzinos keeps much of it fascinating by milking the melodrama. The tone is set early; the opening scene shows a police bust, with public restroom queens scattering dizzyly to avoid arrest. One escapee is *Angel*, a handsome, rather square young Athenian who works at a jewelry store and provides much of the support of his extra-dysfunctional family.

moodily *Angel* is disturbed but entranced and agrees to date him. Soon they've set up house together and appear the picture of closed queer marital bliss, though *Angel* too quickly embraces a traditional female role, waiting on hubby and clinging to his admittedly irresistible muscles. In one of the film's most sensitive scenes, he's warned by a seen-it-all middle-aged ex-lover that Mikhalis is well known, a "professional," and that *Angel* is cruising for a fall.

Lingerie love

And fall he does. Drafted into the army, he returns to the happy little homestead to find an eager Mikhalis plying him with presents. To *Angel's* dismay, the presents are women's sexy underwear. It seems that hubby needs money, and *Angel's* sweet looks would make him a dandy transvestite whore.

Angel hesitates for a few seconds before joining the local tranny whore subculture. Eventually

You've waited two years for this to happen. Patience has its rewards.

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A Derek Jacobi film festival

'Love Is the Devil,' 'Up at the Villa' out on video



Derek Jacobi as Francis Bacon in *Love Is the Devil*

by Will Shank

Love Is the Devil
Written and directed by John Maybury, a British Film Institute production

This cinematic story of the life of British painter Francis Bacon was a big hit in the UK, but it seemed to last only a few days during its run in US movie theaters last year. After a long pause before the video release, now it can be said: this is the best artist's bio ever put on film! Bacon is nobody's idea of a protagonist. As portrayed by Derek Jacobi, he comes across as a nasty old queen, self-loathing and self-absorbed. But the core of Maybury's remarkable film is a delicate love story of the rich-and-famous artist's affair with the hopelessly devoted George Dyer (Daniel Craig), who was the principle heir of the Bacon estate when he died in 1992.

Talk about "meeting cute!" The object of Bacon's affection first appears on the scene by dropping through the roof into the artist's cluttered London studio in an attempt to burglarize it. Bacon, who

was attracted to rough trade, and to dangerous scenarios in general, loses no time in seducing the handsome intruder. The rest of the film is the roller-coaster story of their embattled relationship, and the frustrations of the young working-class tough trying to fit into the chic art world.

Jacobi bears a remarkable resemblance to Bacon. And the director and cinematographer have accomplished a superb cinematic feat in making their film resemble at every opportunity a painting by Francis Bacon. Actors' faces are distorted as the artist views them through a cocktail glass. Tableaux are set within the famous empty gridlike box of Bacon's paintings, or framed as a triptych in a mirror. Sex is pictured as a wordless life-and-death blood feud. This is not your father's artist biopic, like Chuck Heston as Michelangelo or Kirk Douglas as Vincent van Gogh. See it!

Up at the Villa
Written by Belinda Haas
Directed by Philip Haas
An Intermedia release

The chameleon-like Jacobi has been everything from a Roman

emperor (*I, Claudius*) to a 12th-century monk (British TV's *Brother Cadfael*). He appears in another gay role in this past year's release of the film version of W. Somerset Maugham's novel *Up at the Villa*. Unfortunately for the film, here he is only a token sissy with the unlikely name of Lucky Leadbetter, in a tiresome re-telling of dilettante Americans and Brits in pre-war fascist Italy. Wasn't *Tea with Mussolini* enough?

Although Anne Bancroft brings some class to the role of the American princess whose social circle provides the context for the disparate expatriates, the romantic leads, Kristin Scott Thomas and Sean Penn, lack any chemistry whatsoever. The thuggish Penn is woefully miscast as Rowley Flint, and he appears as uncomfortable in his patrician speech patterns (think of his ex-wife Madonna when she affects a British accent) as he does in his starched collars. With his mascara and prissy hairdo, Jacobi disappears far too soon from the company of ensemble players, and in spite of high production values which show off period shots of Florence and Tuscany to good advantage, *Up at the Villa* goes down. ▼

Sisters are doing it for themselves

Girl groups getting their acts together on disc

by Gregg Shapiro

From the Andrews Sisters and the Ronettes to the Supremes and the Runaways, the groundwork for "girl groups" was laid for music in which harmony was both a musical and physical state of mind. Sisterhood was, and still is, powerful. Modern-day belly-baring solo singers Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears must share the charts with girl groups such as Destiny's Child, proving that there's room for every sister with a voice.

Even though Destiny's Child's second album, *The Writing's on the Wall* (Columbia), was released in 1999, it was one of the great success stories of 2000. Not since En Vogue in the early-to-mid '90s has a fierce and female African-American "girl group" burned up the

charts in this fashion. Add to that the whittled-down trio's triumph with the two tracks that they contributed to the *Charlie's Angels* soundtrack, and you can say that their destiny must be success. Chart-busting hit singles (and accompanying MTV TRL-ruling videos) "Bills, Bills, Bills," "Say My Name," and "Jumpin', Jumpin'" have allowed this young, Texas-based girl group to be the voice of the independent black women facing the 21st-century with her head up, her eyes wide open, and her moves worthy of Janet Jackson.

Like Destiny's Child, the Spice Girls have lost a group member. They've also gained a more mature, modern-day R&B sound, as you can hear on *Forever* (Virgin), their third full-length studio album. With mediocre album sales, the album's title might be more ironic than the British quartet might have

intended. The short attention span of their young fans, as well as the group's new more soulful sound, might work against them. The album's first single, "Holler," may not have the spirit of fun that frothed forth from their previous hits, but it does have a blatant sexual tone that reminds us these girls are really women. It isn't until the more upbeat dance number "Get Down with Me" that we are reminded that this is a Spice Girls album after all. "Wasting my Time" and "If You Wanna Have some Fun" recall the Spice Girls energy of old, but the remainder of the album gets bogged down in Rodney Jerkins' style of disjointed R&B.

The challengers

Destiny's Child had better watch their toned and muscled

backs, because there are a couple of other trios who are poised to snatch the diva crowns right off their heads. One such trio is Cleopatra, who have a new disc titled *Steppin' Out* (Maverick). These British sisters really are sisters who combine the European attitude of the Spice Girls with the in-your-face soulfulness of Destiny's Child. From their first single "U Got It" to other potential hit jams such as "Come and Get Me," "Questions and Jealousy" and "Bingo my Love," these queens of the Nile and beyond are ready to rule the world.

On their concept album debut disc *Daydreamin'* (RCA), another new R&B female trio, Before Dark, combines youth, femininity and soul. Whether they're addressing the man-stealing "Monica" or a lover ("Always on my Mind,"

"Daydream"), Before Dark sheds some new light on the scene.

Before some of the young women in the aforementioned girl groups were even born, the Detroit-based sister act The Jones Girls were recording albums and having hit singles. *The Best of The Jones Girls* (The Right Stuff) compiles 17 of those songs. The Gamble & Huff-penned "You Gonna Make Me Love Somebody Else" was a smash hit in discos as well as on the R&B chart. The sisterly trio struck a balance between a classic R&B sound ("Who Can I Run to," "I Just Love the Man," "We're a Melody") and dance-oriented tracks such as "Dance Turned Into a Romance," "(I Found) That Man of Mine," "Nights over Egypt," and "Keep It Comin,'" and this collection pays homage to their talents. ▼

Original casts

► page 32

the Man"), Michael Jackson ("Morning Glow"), and the Jackson 5 ("Corner of the Sky," which was a considerable hit for the group), and they are included as bonus tracks on this disc. Fun cast facts about *Pippin* include an as-yet-unknown Jill Clayburgh as Catherine, and Irene Ryan (best known for her portrayal of Granny Clampett in the '60s sitcom *The Beverly Hillbillies*) in her final stage role, as Berthe; as well as Ben Vereen as the Leading Player, a part created for the actor by director/choreographer Bob Fosse.

Most happy

On the subject of reissues, revivals and the like, Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella* (JAY Records) is now available in a three-disc set which boasts of

being the "first complete recording." This package, which features almost three hours of music, also contains the complete libretto to the musical, which is based on Sidney Howard's "They Knew What They Wanted."

The cast recording for *The Wild Party* (Decca Broadway), which was based on the risqué 1928 book-length poem by Joseph Moncure March, features a remarkable cast, including Mandy Patinkin, Toni Collette, and Eartha Kitt, performing the dark and disturbing songs of Michael LaChiusa.

Jane Eyre (Sony Classical) is based on Charlotte Bronte's novel of a less scandalous nature. Marla Schaffel is bound for Broadway in the title role, and James Barbour is Edward Rochester, the man with whom Jane falls "hopelessly in love." Paul Gordon and John Caird's musical sounds as if it owes a debt to the musicals of the '80s and '90s which preceded it.



From *Mamma Mia!*

Mamma Mia (Decca Broadway), the original cast album to "the musical based on the songs of ABBA," is a few steps above the A'Teens' version of ABBA. If you are an ABBA-head, you won't be able to live without this. If you're not, this will probably be meaningless to you. ▼

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HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:
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Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/SF

Committed to ending the AIDS scam through direct action. Public meeting 7:30pm on Monday 1884 Market Street. Contact: 864-6686 or www.actupsf.com.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and unstated gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-4545.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly weddings, weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland. (510) 663-7979

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group

Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 663-1581.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family" on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Agnews, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese). Info: 800-660-1993.

ARIS

ARIS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail ichoi415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places

Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or to call 284-1740.

BAPHR

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bayview Families Family Circle

Nonprofit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Cal-Pep

Work to provide innovative HIV education, outreach, prevention, case management, HIV/hepatitis/STD testing, and substance abuse counseling in San Francisco and Alameda counties. For more info, contact California HIV Prevention & Education Project at 510-874-7850 or visit them at 405 14th Street in downtown Oakland. All services are free.

Cancer Support Group

Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info or to call Brian at 422-2137.

Catholic Charities

Residential and direct HIV services include Gueret House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for women, HIV+ & men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register, 292-1521.

Clinica Esperanza

The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women
 Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info Lynn, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men
 Meets Weds., 5:30-7pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kevin Pedretti. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence
 Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers
 Reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 864-6686 or www.acupsf.com.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
 Gay and lesbian Jewish synagogue. Services every Friday at 8:15pm. 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. 861-6932.

Connections
 Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 558-6114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
 An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Counseling Services for Drinking Drivers
 Groups for gay men who are court- or DMV-mandated to attend a multiple offender program. Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services: 241-1187.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market, Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center
 Free classes for HIV+ people in needpoint (Tues., Wed., exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center
 At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. (415) 477-0740 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics
 Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: 565-2933.

Dimensions
 Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQ+ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

Dolores Street Comm. Services
 Supports workers to help homeless in shelters and people living with AIDS at the Richard M. Cohen Residence. For info or to volunteer call (415) 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program
 Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Height Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group
 Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Men, eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Eden I & R
 Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

Ellipsa-Peninsula AIDS Support Services
 Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group
 Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Men, eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

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Ellipsa-Peninsula AIDS Support Services
 Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center
 Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2235.

Fabric
 A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, who drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
 Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Full Circle Community Counseling
 We offer low-cost services which support, encourage, and challenge people to realize their unlimited potential. Take the step to go beyond the pain of your past to experience the freedom of who you really are. Offices in SF and the East Bay. 255-0100.

Gay Dads
 Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project
 Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists
 Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay Men's Meditation Group
 Yoga philosophy, silent meditation, discussion of integrating sexuality with spirituality. Free. Sundays, 4pm. Call 431-7575.

Gay Men's STD Clinic
 Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Last Drag Smoking Cessation
 Free quit smoking class for LGBT & HIV-positive smokers. Quit smoking in a confidential and supportive setting. Classes led by a highly skilled and experienced clinic leader certified by the American Lung Association. Voice mail: (415) 565-7672, ext. 351 or www.lastdrag.org.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project
 Provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian Social Group
 For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/SO. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

Project HOPE
 Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

G40+ Club
 A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project
 Free, confidential & secure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 565-2273.

Height-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox
 Outpatient, medical drug detox, and acute medical case counseling, and HIV education. Free. Drop in Monday-Friday, 11am to 6pm at 529 Clayton or call Hector, 565-1909.

Height-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic
 Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing, provided conveniently in the evening at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632.

Health Support Services
 For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-8pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing
 And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
 Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network
 Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation; phone/ fax action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program
 Behavior change support group for gay & bisexual men, focus on sex injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Height-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1695 Height. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf
 Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week, issues, support for living with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call 511, 626-7000 x199, 1853 Market St.

HIVCare
 Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
 Co-ed for people with HIV. Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Co-ed for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson, 10:30pm. 1700 Jackson.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group
 Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group
 Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HITting Group
 Meditation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginning: 10:20am). Castro St. Zen Center, 2307 Hardwood. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing
 Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 353 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions
 Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs

Provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Asst. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project
 Treats patients with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Interventions
 Free workshops for adults and children with HIV/AIDS.

Institute Laboral de la Raza
 Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-5222.

Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Project

Counseling, support groups, case management, more for Jewish people with HIV and their loved ones. 561-2124.

Just Us
 Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 564-7000.

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Just Us
 Provides substance

BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill, digital manipulation by Mike Hardison

1.900.884.8846

Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™

You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone!

PARTING GLANCES

VA Hospital Cowboy

I saw you in lobby we nodded to each other, I'd really like to talk interest-ed? Call. 72634

Dore Castro St. Tues 11/14 9pm
We chatted- would like to continue conversation and catch up. Please call, Bill. 72635

Trader Joe's Friday 11/10

We smiled at check-out, you turned as you made your exit. Me: WM, tall, black jacket, goatee; you: BM, glasses, short hair. Wanna meet for coffee? 72650

"Fuzzylogic" Opening 11/17
You were upstairs. Me down. We smiled. No time then to talk. Have time now. Call me. 72651

Lyle And Evan Burritos On 24th St
Hey buddy- enjoyed our time, let's get together. 72633

Day B4 Tgiving Bart 1pm
You: tall, red shirt w/2 women. Me: shorter w/ 1. brown hair, glasses. You got off at 16th/ Mission & said "so long". Wanna meet? 72653

Met At Powerhouse!
You, blond, 23, Musician, DJ, Dot-comme, 53, Provinceton, Howard Johnson's. Let's create magic. 72681

Blow Buddies Sun Nov 19
You: No clothes, shaved head, goatee, working over stud on chair. Me: bushy mustache, Levi's, green, blue coca-cola sweatshirt. Let's meet? 72655

Sun 11/26 Jubilee Cafe
You in yellow shirt, if not engaged, would like to meet! 72654

The Rhino, 10/15 Matinee
You- tall Asian in khaki cap, sat with friends. Me: White in purple shirt, sitting alone. Exchanged glances in the theatre, waved afterwards walking away. 72656

19 Polk 12/30 Tues Att 11/21
Blond, 30s, newspaper. You: 30s, also in leather jacket, v. handsome, sat w/me. Asked time, you thought I was leaving; U smiled, said "take care" when I did. @ Market. Mutual frisson? 72652

A. H. Fitzgerald
We shared one afternoon of unbridled passion in S.F. Circumstances stopped me from contacting you afterward. Hoping rekindle the flame. C. 72657

Just Back From New Zealand
11/27 we sat next to each other on the plane from LA to SF. Would like to talk to you again. 72726

Home Depot Sun 11/26 8:30am
You: tall, dark, thin, white sweatpants. Me: short, dark, mustache, jeans. Too struck by your good looks to speak. Call if HIV+. 72658

18th & Castro Shirtless Dancer Oct 31
You were on bus stop booth with no shirt, dancing. It was Castro Haloween. I screamed at you. I wore a devil shirt. Interested? 72680

The Cafe, Sat Nov. 25
You: cute blonde blue shirt, dark hair goatee, pool table upper bar. Me: blonde, blonde goatee dk red sweater w/stripe. Would like to see you again, call me. 72699

David, Nurse, Live By Ocn Bch
We went out a few years ago. Saw you at Stacey's Books last month- wanted to say hi, but didn't know how to start; can we have coffee? Ken. 72725

Fifth & Sixth Fused

Maybe more in common. Three of us in your Mista from Power Exchange to my house. Wanted you to stay. 72700

UC Berkeley Perimeter Bus 12/7/5p
Our stop Bart. Me: jeans, grey coat guy with friend in back. You: grey sweater, cargo pants guy. Our eyes met. You smiled as you left the bus and I smiled. 72701

White Vespa Boy, One Year Ago
Eastbound on 18th, late afternoon 12/21/99. Me: leather jacket, Honda, spaced when you pulled over despite your sparkling fuck-me stare. Call if this isn't too bizarre (or bizarre enough). 72702

Vincent-Thu11/30 Daddys+Detour
We talked about movies and I enjoyed kissing you. You are very cute. I would still like to watch "Less Than Zero", with you, maybe more kissing too! Pls call. Eric. 72703

SFO Open House Lufthansa
You busy stamping passports. Me- with friend and not able to say hello. Too late to get my stamp? How about coffee or dinner? 72724

Eye Contact, "The Bar"
You Italian-Latin we made eye contact at, "The Bar", 12/9 said hi when I saw you walking on Castro w/my roommate. Dinner? 72727

12/25 Evening Air-Bart-Embarcadero
We sat opposite each other. You- green army pants/Banana Republic sweatshirt. Me- black jeans/jacket. Noticed your growing bulge. Want to do something about it? Call! 72743

Castro Starbucks 12/23
Me, black shirt, goatee, book; You, blue shirt, dark hair, book. My title: "Too shy to talk." Yours? Can we compare notes? 72744

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Please...

Fuck me hard, then deep your beautiful cock into my hot throat for romance with White top 30-50. Scorpio, Cancer, Aries preferred. Thank you. 72636

Shy Cute German 34yo Top Artist
Blond, blue hairy, 6'1", 160 unct. ISO crazy-like Asian, Black, Latino, or other for unlimited fun! Horny? Don't wait call me now. 72637

Bi-Monthly Visitor
Slim masculine WM 43 would like to meet the same or younger for talks, walks, films, meals, and naked intimacy, on weekends. 72638

"I Need Your Vote(s)!"
To win Bay Area best cocksucker crown (I'm ex-captain U.S. Olympic cocksucking team!) Knock-sox-off demons for your buddies: let's get it/them out/up/off! 72639

How About Some Bump & Grind?
GBM top 50 needs GWM bottom 50ish for hot sex and hanging out at my place, please be beefy and enjoy talking it. Smoke and aroma A+. 72660

Seeking Big Ones
Handsome GWM b/fk/hazel; great body. Sweet ass. Seeks GWM with a big fat one to plow me, deep & slow. No disappointments. 72662

Nellie Top ISO LTR
Single GWM 50's top bra/p 6' 200# smoker non gyn big hearted, grounded looking for single gay male w/good nature and cut tool for BJ, ass plowing, romance. 72663

GW, 25, 6'2", Slim, Attractive
W/ quick, cynical mind, wildly varied interests, seeks similar. HIV-, don't need to respond to ads, mature, No Castro clones, good personality, be interesting, 23-27. 72664

SF 69er Sought
Me: GWM 49 5'9" lean athletic (runner, biker) 6' cut HIV- bearded bald witty friendly enjoys quiet.

Seeks: similar clean, low-key younger man for mutual oral sex. 72706

Quality Asian-American, 34, 5'8"
Slim, gym-toned, independent, stable, down to earth. Interests include gardening, travel, reading, learning.

Seeking friendship and possible ltr. Prefer 28-40. Race unimportant. Sincere only please. 72707

Easteuro Man Seeking Thai Man

In shape, 38 years, 5'8", about 164# Eastern European man seeking Thai man about my age (30-40). 72728

Loved To Be Fucked
By Asian and Latino men on LTR. I'm 6'2", GWM 165lbs. You won't be disappointed. We can have sex many times in the future. Yours. 72729

HIV+ Black Men Or Latino
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44yrs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same, I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. 72730

Hi, My Name Is Ralph J. Torres
I am looking for someone between 18-24 years old. I am a bi-male, I am a top looking for a bottom that love sex. 72731

I Know You're Out There!
Handsome, healthy, HIV+, successful, 40-something, muscular guy, 5'10", 165lbs, who enjoys life with comic intensity. Looking for someone my age or younger for passionate relationship. 72732

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Stocky WM, 48 Seeks BM Within SF, Bay Area. Professional home-loving guy with wide interests seeks same. HIV- 57", 220lbs. No substance abusers please. ☎ 72733

Class Act 4 Same
GL professional, 50s, tall and shaved, bright, humorous and playful, enjoys cooking, theatre and the gaults, sexually versatile, seeks man of quality for dating and lrt. Life is to share. ☎ 72734

Younger Poz Bottom Sought
Black male; 5'10", 185, 43, dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, 32" waist, 44" chest, 43, nice body, quiet, mature man, seeks muscular poz bottom, 35 and under, for intimacy, warmth, closeness. ☎ 72745

Hott, Hott, In Antioch
I will close the curtains, light a couple of candles as you sit on the bed showing me your big dick. I will model around showing you my fine clean ass as we enjoy a cocktail, smoke, music. I am 38y, old, horny Frenchman, handsome. You may be average but have a hot cock. ☎ 72646

Hi My Name Is Ralph
I am looking for a girlfriend between 18-24. I am 40 years old that love the Lord Jesus Christ in my life and, I have AIDS. ☎ 72747

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Asian Top
Sought by healthy, muscular, athletic, attractive poz GWM. 6', 165lb, 47yo. Safe only. Fun for sure. ☎ 72640

"Top, Wants To Be Topped!"
Blue collar male WM 45 look about 41, smooth, broad shoulders, must/Van Dyke side burns/ seeks very hairy slender to med/build under 5'6" to take control. HIV- ☎ 72641

Bottom Hot Latino 30's Likes To Suck a big dick, also get fucked. Redwood City area. Nice ass, nice legs. Please call me. ☎ 72642

Hot White Bottoms Need By
White top, 6'0", 56yrs old, dark hair, eyes glasses 9" dick, 160lbs. Want to fuck hot young White men under 40. Leave message. ☎ 72643

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72644

Hot Cock And Ass 4 U
White versatile, E/B, slender, 5'8", 155, 50's HIV-, seeks tops with 6" and slender, hairless bottom. HIV-, safe sex, no drugs, any age, race or marital status. Asians A+. ☎ 72645

SR GWM ISO Mature GBM
For massage J/O, I'm 59" 155# affectionate average cut, bearded. You're 45+ fit/healthy. Medium to beefy. Shaved head, facial hair A+. ☎ 72665

Bodybuilder Phone J/O
Bodybuilder into body worship, muscleflex, flexing. Posing, weightlifting, wrestling, in jock or posing trunks, nude. Call with your fantasy. 5'9", 195, 46ch, 16a. ☎ 72666

"Got Cheese?"
GWM 50, 6' love man smells any age race. 7" or more. Long over hang a real plus. ☎ 72667

Dominant Older Man Will Train
A gdlk'g submissive 18-40 boy to serve him as a son or/ and slave. Lits respected. On-going preferred. Daddy-master is mid 70's, attr; young looking and acting. ☎ 72668

Hunky Underwear Fanatic Sks Same
Hairy, built GWM seeks similar SF hunk, for mutual underwear fetishes, nighball work, long 69 sessions. I'm 5'11", 180, 50, totally oral, healthy poz. You're hairy chested, tall in-shape, 40+, mostly oral too. Prefer average size dick. Let's get it on while wearing, trading, sniffing, talking about our boxers, briefs, jockstraps. Repeat desired if chemistry, attraction, compatibility. ☎ 72669

I Love My Dad/ 5'9" 200lbs 42
GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. ☎ 72670

Looking To Service Older Guys
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 40, br/bi, 165lbs, 5'8" in Oakland, wants to service guy 46-60. Muscular, hairy, hung, well-built A+. ☎ 72671

Kinda Shy Guy
HIV- Black male, 42, medium build, enjoy movies, dancing, walks at night, playtime always! Looking for 38-up, HIV+ male looking for someone like me. All types welcome. ☎ 72672

Free Massage
From bottom daddy, GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs, Ital/Germ, brown/hazel, beard given to lean top boy 18-35. Dark hair and/or facial hair a plus. ☎ 72673

East Bay Mature Academic
Appreciative of nude male body seeks gay, straight, bi exhibitionist or curious, 25-50, for private encounters with big 8+ men for long ltr. ☎ 72739

Heavyset Men
WLM 45, 160lbs, moderately hry. I'm attracted to husky/heavyset men who enjoy lots of hugging, kissing & oral action. Facial hair A+. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 72693

GAM 30's Back In Town
Looking for GWM 30-43 for hot times. If interested please call. ☎ 72694

Bottom Need's F.F.
Ball's need S/M, be tormented, ass needs spanking and exploring. I am clean HIV- bi WLM 52", 120 shaved, and a experienced cocksucker, stay overnite. Sacramento, aroma/herbs LA or. ☎ 72708

Sexy Older (54-67) For Cute 28
East Bay, athletic, slim, trim, 6', 160# with satin smooth skin and bubble buns youngster 28 seeks naughty older men. Younger Latinos welcome. ☎ 72709

Into Rimming?
Hav a lover, seeking a rimming buddy for mutual ass eating. Me: GWM, 53yrs, 5'8", 175#. You: GWM and discreet. Clean, no scat, your place in SF only. HIV+. ☎ 72710

A Rubbery Adventure
Artractive blonde, mid 40's, HIV positive, seeks similar W/M to explore the rubber scene. I've got lots of leather and rubber gear. You should too. East Bay/S.F. ☎ 72711

Dry Face Needs Hot Cum Bath
Masculine W/M 58 seeking senior citizens. Let's get between your legs and jerk off your cock directing your cum all over my face. ☎ 72713

Dominant Male, 39 Seeking
Part time house slave. Must be detail oriented & eager to please. Age & looks not important. ☎ 72714

Big, Husky, Chubby, Fat
GWM, 47yo, 5'11", 250lbs, big chest, hung seeks big, fat, & chubby men for uninhibited sex. You must be my size or bigger. Discretion a must. ☎ 72715

Handsome Slim Dad, 54, Holds U
And caresses you. You blow me. I put it in you if you want it. Masturbate you & kiss you. Young, slim only. ☎ 72717

Flood Bldg Buddy Wanted
Professional GWM, working in Flood Building, is looking for a building buddy for AM coffee, drinks after work, sex over lunch (not necessarily in that order). ☎ 72718

Kick Back And Enjoy
Free erotic massage and/or oral service by muscular, handsome, long-haired GWM, Trim or in shape a must, longhair or alternative types A+. I'm a nice guy. U/B. ☎ 72735

I Like Sensual Bondage
Lean, athletic, friendly guy, 45, seeks partner for sensual bondage, flogging, role playing. Reciprocity if desired. ☎ 72736

FF Top Want FF Bottom
SWM 50's HIV- looking for FFB GWM HIV- for pleasure and fun-rama-herb ok. ☎ 72737

Athletic, Masculine, Witty, Asian,
55, 5'8", 155, seeks similar clean-shaven, lean/muscular, in-shape WM for adventurous companion and fun times. ☎ 72738

Big Black Man
I am 46 year old, non smoker or drug, I need someone, any race with big 8+ men for long ltr. ☎ 72739

East Bay
Appreciative, mature Academic male seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 72749

Mine's Big
Looking for someone who can take it. Looking for someone who can handle it. Looking for someone who can go all night long. Seach me, 24/7. Ragin. ☎ 72750

Oakland Guy
36, shaved cock and balls, HIV+, seeks other positive guys for mutual oral and J/O. Prefer cock and balls shaved. Let's have some fun. ☎ 72751

Mature Masculine Submissive
Seeks dominant top 40+ for erotic BD/S/M play. Sub is Intelligent, experienced, imaginative. ☎ 72752

Great Downtown Head
GWM 50, not gyned ton, gives excellent head to men over 8" any age, race. I am 6', 188lbs, brn, handsome and love oral sex. ☎ 72753

I Need A Slow Hand
Boylish Asian seeks the strong hands of a smooth gyn toned GM or AM to massage my full body. Enjoy hot tubing too. ☎ 72754

Ties And Toes All Goers
I have a heart for all that blows. I'm a 5'6" bottom and like all. Please give it to me. ☎ 72758

I'm Lost In Orlando!
Formerly known as "Pete" in the window on Sanchez Street, I have relocated to Orlando. If you're planning to visit, leave me a message. I'll give you what you need. ☎ 72713

Big, Husky, Chubby, Fat
GWM, 47yo, 5'11", 250lbs, big chest, hung seeks big, fat, & chubby men for uninhibited sex. You must be my size or bigger. Discretion a must. ☎ 72715

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PERFORMERS WANTED: EARN CASH WAGES AND TRIPS FOR AN AVERAGE OF 20 MIN. SHOWS. IF YOU HAVE IT AND CAN DO IT ASK FOR AUDITION.

Attractive, Smooth, Athletic Asian
Guy wants to receive long firm, erotic, full body, head to toe oil massages. From experienced or licensed masseurs. I enjoy having my chest, butt, legs, cock, balls, etc. massaged. I also enjoy bondage, having my hands and feet tied up while massaged, etc. ☎ 72740

Naked On Your Knees
Are you masculine and submissive with a light trim body from 20 to 44? Would you like to take orders for some role playing fun with a trim dominant WM 43? ☎ 72755

Seeking A Very Well Hung Stud
Nice-looking White bottom, seeking nice-looking White or Latino top 18-40 with nice looking body, huge thick dick to get together to fuck my tight hot asshole good. ☎ 72756

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By White top 56yrs old, 6'160lbs. brn/brn glasses big 9" cut cock wants to fuck young bottoms ages 18-39. Be hot & smooth bodied. ☎ 72757

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Conjuring The Flesh or Apprenticed To Pleasure by Brandon Fox, "cool scene", isn't it? Group of Images forming. Learn to touch the kei by understanding pleasure. Initiates wanted, call Ander to meet. ☎ 72748

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W/M seeks senior citizen with senior friends who can put together a J/O party with my face on receiving end of shot after shot of hot cum. ☎ 72742

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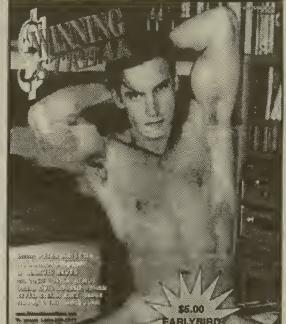
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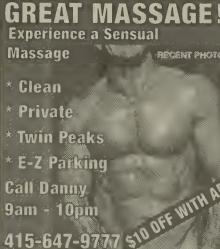
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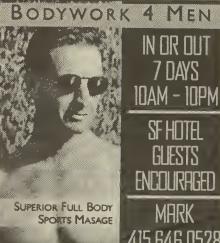
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Kevin pg# 605-5328 in/out 24/7.

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5'9", 155#, 30", 8" 739-7312

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By hot hung 888 215 2268

Naked runner Peninsula/SF thick
7.5" Big Balls 650-213-9091

Hungry mouth Bi handsome 8" daddy
40's for horny businessmen-Asian+\$60
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MANPLAY NOW
6', 190#, hung, hairy 46" chest,
34yo mild to extreme top/versatile
TT,S/M,B/D,CBT, FF-sling
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E01

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6', 190#, hung, hairy 46" chest,
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E01

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E04

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E18

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E18

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